

SURMA VALLEY BRANCH.

Indian Tea Association.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

GENERAL COMMITTEE

FOR

The year ending 30th June 1924.



Calcutta:

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1925.

Indian Tea Association.

SURMA VALLEY BRANCH.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE SURMA VALLEY BRANCH, INDIAN TEA
ASSOCIATION, held at the Amusement Club,
Silchar, on Tuesday, the 11th March 1924.

Present:

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C. <i>Chairman.</i>	MR. T. A. ALLAN.
„ J. C. DAWSON, M.L.C. <i>Vice-Chairman.</i>	„ FRANK PULLEN.
„ W. R. P. GUNNERY.	„ J. S. CARGILL.
„ J. REID.	„ H. EMBLEN.
„ C. A. WILLIAMS.	„ C. W. ALEXANDER.
„ J. NORMAN ROSS.	„ D. E. GOMME.
„ R. T. FRASER.	„ C. E. ANDREWS.
„ C. S. CRESSWELL.	„ J. D. JENKINS.
„ H. D. MARSHALL, O.B.E.	„ H. TAYLOR.
„ F. W. CARPENTER.	„ J. ELDER.
„ G. M. C. BLACK.	„ H. DAVY.
„ E. C. T. DODD.	„ M. T. BEATTS.
„ E. G. PETERS.	„ H. P. GILL.
„ J. MACKNIGHT.	„ J. W. M. WATSON.
„ A. MCCREATH.	„ W. CULLEN.
„ D. PETERSON.	„ A. K. PRESTON.
„ D. MCWHIA.	„ H. A. BULL.
„ C. N. W. GRIMSHAW.	„ D. BROWN.
„ J. FRASER.	„ H. J. MOUNSEY.
„ F. ROSS JONES.	„ S. A. PEARSON.
„ A. T. DAVIES.	„ A. N. RITCHIE.
„ R. M. VIPAN.	„ L. F. RAE.

MR. C. R. FOX.	MR. A. B. MARTIN.
„ W. G. GRINLEY.	„ J. C. NOBLE.
„ J. N. G. STOKER.	„ A. G. FURREL.
„ H. W. ANDERSON.	„ J. R. ATKINSON.
„ R. MORTIMORE.	„ H. M. GIRLING.
„ T. A. BLACKLAWS.	„ W. K. GREEN.
„ R. H. HOSSACK.	„ P. S. DOUBELL.
„ R. H. TALBOT.	„ J. W. HART.
„ S. G. MACBEY.	„ S. PATTERSON.
„ T. E. EVERARD.	„ C. E. EWING.
„ T. M. ODLING.	„ T. C. NEEMS.
„ J. M. TAYLOR.	„ E. B. BAKER.
„ E. W. HUGHES.	„ J. H. JEWELL.
„ A. F. STUART.	„ R. H. C. DUNCAN.
„ W. J. CAMERON.	„ R. HUNTER.
„ R. St. J. HICKMAN, C.I.E.	„ A. C. KITCHEN.
„ B. GUPTA.	„ N. H. N. MACLEOD.
„ W. E. MACKENZIE HILL.	„ W. MACDOUGALL.
„ G. T. RING ... by his proxy	Mr. W. E. D. Cooper.
„ A. A. M. CLARKE ... by his proxy	„ J. N. ROSS.
„ W. R. T. FORBES ... by his proxy	„ J. N. ROSS.
„ F. R. JOHNSON ... by his proxy	„ A. B. MARTIN.
MR. W. E. D. COOPER, <i>Secretary</i> .	

GUESTS.

The following gentlemen attended the meeting by the invitation of the Committee :—

- REV. D. W. H. S. WOOD.
- MR. J. E. WEBSTER, C.S.I., C.I.E., Commissioner, Surma Valley & Hill Division.
- „ R. FRIEL, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Cachar.
- „ P. H. CARPENTER, Chief Scientific Officer.
- „ C. BAKER, Acting Traffic Manager, Assam-Bengal Railway.
- „ R. S. VIPAN, District Traffic Superintendent, Badarpur.
- „ A. B. R.
- „ W. J. ROBERTSON, Manager, Burma Oil Co. Badarpur.
- „ B. A. MARTIN, Joint Agent, I. G. N. & R. S. N. Co., Fenchuganj.

LT.-COL. W. J. COLLINSON, Civil Surgeon, Silchar.
CAPT. K. E. L. PENNELL, Executive Engineer, Cachar Division.
CAPT. G. M. STROUD, Adjutant, Surma Valley Light Horse.
MR. J. RAMACKERS, Calcutta.
„ A. S. MACALISTER, Calcutta.
„ I. G. RAWSON.
DR. RICE.
„ W. J. DAVIS.

Letters were received from the following gentlemen regretting their inability to attend the meeting :—

MR. J. A. MILLIGAN, Chairman, Assam Labour Board.
„ G. ANSON BAYLEY, Agent, Assam-Bengal Railway,
The political Agent, Tripura State.
The Sub-Divisional Officer, Hailakandi.
„ „ „ South Sylhet.
„ „ „ Habiganj.

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C., having taken the chair, the Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN then addressed the meeting as follows :—

Gentlemen, before putting the resolution to the meeting it is customary for the Chairman to make a few remarks with reference to the work of the General Committee during the past year, and also to welcome our guests who come here at no small inconvenience to themselves to attend our meeting.

There is one guest who was here last year we miss extremely, and that is the late Col. Kennedy and I would like to suggest that this meeting sends its sincerest sympathies to Mrs. Kennedy.

You will, I know, be pleased at the Indian Tea Association raising a testimonial to the late Col. Kennedy to show our appreciation of his work and to relieve, so far as it is in our power, his loss to his wife and mother.

LABOUR.

I would like to congratulate the tea industry in this Valley not only on a very successful season, but also on labour conditions during 1923. There are in this Valley 365 Europeans working 3,08,000 coolies, and during 1923 there was not, although it sounds almost incredible, a single criminal case between a planter and his coolie, and I consider that wherever the question of the planters and his labour force is discussed, either in the Legislative Council, Shillong or the Legislative Assembly at Delhi, the above fact cannot be too prominently brought forward.

Gentlemen, so long as we have planters who can hold the reins of authority so lightly, I think our labour conditions in the Surma Valley will remain, as they are at present, the envy of all other districts in tea.

 ROYAL COMMISSION ON SUPERIOR CIVIL SERVICES.

Now Gentlemen, with reference to the Royal Commission on the Superior Civil Services, your Committee was asked seven very pertinent questions with reference to Government of India Act, 1919; and the position we took up was that so far as the administration of Justice was concerned we wanted the best man to hold the scales evenly between the different colours, races, creeds, castes, religion, etc., in India at the present time; and in our opinion, without doubt, the best man is the man who has done it for so long and so well: we considered that the Indianization of the other Superior services, Education, Forest, Agriculture, Engineering, Medical, Veterinary, as far as possible, is essential; as there is no doubt that the cause of all the sedition and unrest in India at the present time is due to unemployment.

Gentlemen, we flatter ourselves we have brought education into India, but what is the good of education unless there are openings for the people you educate, you cannot expect well educated men to go back to the plough or the "Charka", and as education will increase in this country by leaps and bounds you must find suitable employment for the educated classes.

Gentlemen, when I had the honour of addressing you in March 1922, I said that :—

“ I was not a politician and this was not a politician meeting ” but after two years as Chairman of the General Committee, and member of Council, I have been forced to the conclusion that we cannot any longer leave the political situation out of this meeting, as if the tea planter of the future cannot become a politician and keep in the closest possible touch with the political situation in this Province, you will find that the tea industry will get the maximum of taxation with the minimum of the benefits which accrue from that taxation.

Gentlemen, the tea industry must understand that they have got to fight politically at the present time and realize that the old idea of a predominant and subservient nation has gone for ever, and we must realize the changed condition of India to-day and also that every year whether we like it or not that the Indian is to be given more power with reference to the ruling of this country, and that we have got to adapt ourselves to these changed conditions, and to realize that India is in a transition stage and that the future of the tea industry depends so much on the behaviour of the non-official Europeans at the present time.

My opinion is that we shall see very big changes in the Government of India Act, 1919 long before 1929—when it is supposed to come up for revision.

LOCAL RATES BILL AND LOCAL BOARDS.

The Local Rates Bill of 1923, over which there was so much controversy must have been weighed in the balance and found wanting, as I have been asked to become a member of a Committee to advise the Government of Assam how to improve the financial resources of the Local Boards of this Province.

As the Local Rates Bill, in its present condition, will not in my opinion ever pass the Council we must look for other sources of revenue. Gentlemen, we know that no improvement can take place in the financial resources of the Local Boards at the present time without tea bearing the lion's share of it, and my opinion is that tea is carrying about as many taxes as it can. There is the export duty on tea which is Rs. 1/8/- per 100 lbs. and was a war measure. It

looks as though it had come to stay, and brings in to the Government of India about 50 lakhs a year. Part of this money might be given to us to increase the financial resources of the Local Boards of this Province. I consider, failing this, the only alternative is for the tea industry to support a revised Local Rates Bill of 1923.

If any one has any other suggestion as to how the financial resources of the Local Boards can be improved without unduly hitting tea industry, I shall be very glad to have them.

FACTORY ACT.

As you are aware Gentlemen, the Government of Assam have for the year 1924 again deleted sections 21, 22 and 27 from the Factory Act under certain conditions, and I trust that these conditions will be strictly adhered to.

Gentlemen, there are two main points in the Factory Act, which we must be very careful about, the first is the proper guarding of all machinery, and the second is the employment of children under 15 years of age where machinery is working.

With reference to the employment of children I cannot do better than to read two letters, one from your Association to the Government of Assam and the reply and they are as follows :—

In reply to your letter No. 1746-47-R., dated the 11th July 1923, with reference to the employment of children in factories on tea estates, I am directed to say that my Committee have no doubt that members of this Branch will be prepared to reduce to a minimum if not to abandon entirely the employment of children in that part of the tea house in which machinery is actually running, and to wall this off where possible.

Reply from the Government of Assam.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter dated 9th August 1923 on the subject of the employment of children in factories, and to convey to the Committee of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, the thanks of the Government for their appreciation of the situation and the assurance they have given.

And that is the position with reference to the employment of children.

BOILERS ACT.

With reference to this Act which comes into force on the 1st January 1925, (but boilers can be inspected now) your Committee had no objection to offer, as we are all only to please to have our people properly protected, if any boiler is in a dangerous condition, it should be either repaired or scrapped at once.

LADY MINTO'S INDIAN NURSING ASSOCIATION.

With reference to the working of Lady Minto's Nursing Association, your General Committee attempted to place this Nursing Association, so far as this Valley was concerned, on a business footing by asking Agents, Directors and Proprietors to subscribe Rs. 5/- per 100 acres, making a subscription of about Rs. 6,500/- (six thousand and five hundred rupees) for which the Nursing Association were to supply four nurses for this Valley. The Nursing Association to take in addition, all fees and also all private subscriptions except from people in tea.

This scheme was not acceptable to the Nursing Association Committee in Shillong, so your Committee decided not to proceed further in this matter.

Lady Minto's Nursing Association now write and request that this scheme shall go on with the exception that they supply three nurses instead of four to this Valley, or preferably both Valleys to put forward a combined scheme, so I think, Gentlemen, it had better be left over until representatives of both Valleys meet and try and arrange some scheme on the 14th of this month in Calcutta, a scheme which would carry on even if Lady Minto's Nursing Association should have at any time to withdraw their nurses from this Province.

EUROPEAN ASSISTING RECRUITING WITH PERMITS.

Now with reference to European proceeding to Madras with permits to assist recruiting, this permit system was arranged between the Madras Government, and the Assam Labour Board, not with the idea of encouraging a good idea but to control a bad one, as your representative on the Recruiting Sub-Committee, your

General Committee, and the Chairman of the Assam Labour Board were all against the sending of Europeans wholesale to the recruiting districts as likely to do more harm than good.

You will realize to what proportions this has grown when I tell you that at the beginning of this year there were applications from 150 Europeans, and many more since, to go to Madras to assist recruiting, Madras being the only district in which permits are required.

TEA CESS.

Gentlemen, with reference to advertising tea. With permission of the Government of India the Tea Cess Committee have increased the tea cess from -/4/- per 100 lbs. to -/6/- per 100 lbs. to enable a large programme to be carried out in America.

For the year 1924-25 the Tea Cess Committee proposed to spend—

£ 40,000 in America,

£ 30,000 in India,

£ 20,000 in France and Belgium.

If any one has suggestion as to any novel form of advertising tea in these countries and will let me have them, I will be very pleased to place them before the Tea Cess Committee.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT.

With reference to the work of the Scientific Department, as Dr. Carpenter is here and I have no doubt, will give us a most interesting account of the work of that Department, I will say nothing.

PETROL.

Gentlemen, the price of petrol in this country remains at a terribly enhanced rate, the price of petrol in London was 2/- per gallon during 1923 it fell as low as 1/6½ per gallon whereas the price to us has always remained at the rate of Rs. 2/9/- per gallon.

Now that tea gardens are going in for mechanical cultivation and motor lorries for transport, it is more than ever the business of your General Committee to take this matter up.

I do not think that the Government of Assam can assist us now as grants of land in the past have been given out for the exploitation of oil without the interest of the inhabitants of this province having been properly safe-guarded.

The price of petrol is less in London than India, it is less in Calcutta than in Assam, and I am informed that it is less in Shillong after 64 miles of road carriage than it is in Gauhati.

Gentlemen, I think the Government of India should hold a very full enquiry not only as regards the price of petrol in this country in comparison with other countries, but with regard to the price in the different districts in this country, as it is most certainly the duty of the Government of India to inform the users of petrol why the price remains at Rs. 2/9/- per gallon to the detriment of all industry.

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

I would like to thank the Agent and Officers of the Assam-Bengal Railway and Steamer Companies for their kind consideration during the past year, whenever they could meet the wishes of the tea industry they have always done so.

I would also like to thank my Agents Messrs. Macneill & Co., for so kindly giving me the necessary leave to attend to the work of this Association, and also the Council Meetings.

COL. R. ST. J. HICKMAN, C.I.E.

Before I sit down, I would like to say on behalf of the tea industry of this Valley, how much we will feel the loss of Col. R. St. J. Hickman, C.I.E. The loss of Col. Hickman's influence in the Surma Valley will be tremendous, the Tea Association will lose one of its soundest members, the Surma Valley Light Horse will lose a most excellent Colonel, and we shall all lose a true friend and a most delightful companion. I am sure every one of us wishes Col. and Mrs. Hickman many happy years in the old country.

I now beg to propose that the report for the year ending 30th June 1923 and the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1923 be passed.

MR. J. C. DAWSON, M.L.C, Vice-Chairman, seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

MR. J. E. WEBSTER, C.S.I., C.I.E., Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, rising, thanked the Chairman for his welcome on behalf of the guests, he congratulated the members of the Branch on the position of the industry, and the excellent terms on which they were with their labour at the present time; he further wished to associate himself with all the Chairman had said with reference to Col. Hickman and the late Col. Kennedy.

He referred with much hesitation to the political situation, imminent changes, Indianization of methods and views, and the difficulty in gauging the feeling of the country or foretelling the future he agreed with the Chairman that unrest was often economic, but thought that sentiment also was a large factor, and emphasised what the Chairman had said with reference to the part to be played by the non-official Europeans. He assured the meeting that Government were interested in the price of petrol, and hoped arrangements would be come to by which this might become available at a cheaper rate in the near future.

Reference was also made to timber concessions given to the Surma Valley Saw Mills with the idea of making cheaper 3 ply boxes available locally, which for various reasons had not succeeded, and views were asked for as to the advisability of transferring the lease to the successors of the present firm.

MR. P. H. CARPENTER, Chief Scientific Officer, rising, said :—

MR. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—The Annual Report of the work of the Department you will be able to read in the Indian Tea Association's annual publication and I do not therefore intend to do more than refer in particular to one or two points mentioned therein.

The touring programme was on an extended scale and visits were paid to a large number of districts and those districts which did not receive a visit last year will be visited during this year. I hope and expect that we shall be able to maintain this large amount of touring, as I think it is helpful both to the planters and to ourselves. A recent tour that I made in the Surma Valley was of particular interest to me, for I saw a very large amount of disease on the tea bushes and a knowledge of the disease enabled me to know that a lot of that disease was preventable but that sufficient attention had

not been paid to the particular treatment that would be most effective in checking the disease. The disease I refer to, is a Poria and it attacks the bush in the stems commencing at a snag and gradually travels down the stems to the collar. In the early stages it is quite easy to control by cutting out the attacked stems but if it is unchecked, it will mean cutting out the main framework of the bush, or it may even mean collar pruning and in some cases the disease may have gone too far for even this drastic treatment to be successful. On the other hand the attack in its initial stage could largely have been prevented by the removal of all snags and dead wood from the bushes. Now this involves fairly good and careful pruning, and I should like to take this opportunity of impressing upon you the necessity for good pruning. In the past this Valley has tended to lag behind some of the other districts in this respect. In many cases I know full well that this is not the fault of the planters but it is because sufficient money has not been available for this very important work. Good pruning takes money, time and labour but it very amply repays in the continued healthiness of the bushes. In some gardens that I have seen where the tea is going back it is not because the soil is poor and needs manuring but because better pruning is required and in such cases expenditure on expensive manures will be very largely wasted. At the present time I am not for a moment advocating the restriction of manuring programmes; they rather need extending but I do want to emphasize that full value will not be obtained from them unless the bushes are pruned better so as to prevent the entry of diseases into the stems of the bushes at snags.

During last November and December three series of lectures were held at Tocklai and each series was attended by 20 men. I hope we shall have a further series this next cold weather. I consider these lectures courses are of great benefit for it does particularly one thing. It enables those attending the courses to see Tocklai and how our work is carried on and also the nature of the work, and it enables the men attending to see how, and in what ways, the Scientific Department can assist them. In some case we have been called in at times to advise when it is really too late and disease has become so rampant that it is very difficult and very expensive to bring it under control. Those visiting Tocklai have been shewn the various diseases and how they can be dealt with, and also preventive

measures, and we seek to train your observation powers in just certain directions, so that troubles may be dealt with before they become epidemic or chronic.

Our investigations dealing with tea manufacture are being continued, and in fact, will continue for some long time for the more that one studies this the more complex does it appear to become. But one or two points are of interest in this connection. We know that the tannin of the tea leaf is a very important constituent and anything that tends to reduce the tannin in the leaf will also tend to the production of poorer quality tea. We have also shewn that both the pruning and plucking of the bush influences this factor as also does the manuring. Whilst it is impossible to have all the tea on a garden in any one year in a condition to produce the best quality leaf, yet much can be done to see that there is a minimum number of the bushes in condition of giving poorer quality leaf; this requires careful organization and cyclic systems of treatment for the bushes help very much.

In the direction of manuring some interesting observations have been made in connection with soil nitrates and their formation. This has proved of particular interest in connection with the manuring of tea on areas that it is not possible to keep clean from jungle growth.

Some interesting observations have been made in connection with the damage done by the tea seed bug.

It has been shewn that different styles of plucking produced different effects upon the resisting power of the bush to certain disease attacks. The more leaf that is removed from the bush the greater is the susceptibility to disease attack.

The use of the bullock drawn cultivators has been continued and one set of plots has been set aside to ascertain the relative value of the cultivator compared to the manual hoeing for the same expenditure of money. Up-to-date no noticeable difference can be noted. This is of importance for the use of the cultivator requires much less labour.

MR. C. BAKER, Acting Traffic Manager, Assam-Bengal Railway, rising, thanked the Chairman for his reference to the cordial relations existing between this Branch of the Association and the Officers of

the Assam-Bengal-Railway ; he called the attention of all members to the necessity for filling in the exact number of coolies to be carried at concession rates on Form (T. 102), and for completing this in all respects before handing it to Sirdars ; failure to do this left openings to the Booking Clerk to enter false figures, realize full fare from ordinary passengers and submit the form to the Audit Office as authority for the issue of a large number of tickets at reduced rates and misappropriate the balance.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the Meeting terminated.

W. E. D. COOPER,

Secretary.

E. W. HOBSON,

Chairman.

*List of members of the General Committee elected
for the year 1923-1924.*

Members.

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C., *Chairman.*

MR. J. C. DAWSON, M.L.C.,	<i>Vice-Chairman.</i>	
" W. R. P. GUNNERY	...	Chargola-Longai.
" H. D. MARSHALL, O.B.E.	...	Inokipur.
" F. W. CARPENTER	...	
" G. M. C. BLACK	...	Happy Valley.
" J. MacKNIGHT	...	North Cachar.
" E. C. T. DODD	...	Chaula Bheeh.
" E. G. PETERS	...	
" A. MCCREATH	...	Hailakandi.
" D. PATERSON	...	
" C. A. WILLIAMS	...	Lungla-Juri-Dbloi and North of Surma.
" J. REID	...	
" J. N. ROSS	...	
" R. G. MATHEWSON	...	Balisema.
" R. T. FRASER	...	
" C. S. CRESSWELL	...	Luskerpore.

MR. W. E. D. COOPER, *Secretary.*

Minutes of the meeting of the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch held in Silchar on 30th July 1923.

Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Secretary of the Branch.

On the proposal of MR. JAMES seconded by MR. HICKMAN, MR. E. W. HOBSON, was unanimously elected as Chairman for the coming year.

MR. HICKMAN proposed and MR. BIGGE seconded that MR. J. REID be asked to act as Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

MR. REID then proposed and MR. JAMES seconded that MR. J. C. DAWSON be asked to act as Vice-Chairman.

The question being put to the vote and those recorded for each proposal, being equal, the question of Vice-Chairman was left to the Sylhet members, who unanimously elected MR. J. C. DAWSON.

MR. W. E. D. COOPER was re-appointed Secretary.

On the proposal of MR. A. B. BEDDOW, seconded by MR. J. C. DAWSON, it was unanimously agreed to raise the remuneration paid to the Secretary to Rs. 300 per month.

Proceedings.

The proceedings of last meeting of the General Committee held on 4th June 1923, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

Accounts of the Branch.

On the proposal of MR. R. ST. J. HICKMAN, seconded by MR. H. M. JAMES, the accounts of the Branch for the half-year ending 30th June 1923 were passed.

Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association.

Dated Calcutta, the 29th June 1923.

From—MESSRS. JARDINE, SKINNER & Co.,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

We understand that a proposal has been made by your Branch that provided 130,000 acres (out of a total of 138,000 odd acres which

pay subscription to the Branch) agree to pay Rs. 5 per 100 acres to the Nursing Association, four nurses will be maintained in the Surma Valley, and we have now to advise that we agree to this proposal on behalf of the estates in the Valley for which we are Managing Agents.

The above letter having been read to the meeting, the Secretary was instructed to send a copy to all Managing Agents having interests in the Surma Valley, asking them to inform this Branch of the attitude they wished to take up on this question.

Proposed Memorial to the late Mr. F. J. Ede.

Letters from Mr. A. M. Chalmers, with reference to a memorial to the late Mr. F. J. Ede, having been previously circulated to all members of the General Committee, were taken as read. This Committee would record that they consider the scheme for founding Scholarships for Engineer and Surveyor students out of the question, also as has been previously recorded they consider the machinery of this Branch of the Association cannot be used for collecting subscriptions, however, worthy the purpose. At the time they entirely sympathise with Mr. Chalmers' suggestion to erect a Memorial to Mr. Ede, and individual members will be pleased to give him any assistance they can if he can see his way to form a Sub-Committee to collect subscriptions.

Agreement with refreshment room contractor.

No. G.-194 - 8, dated 29th June 1923.

From—The TRAFFIC MANAGER, Assam-Bengal Railway,

To—The CHAIRMAN, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I shall be glad to have your opinion on the following item and resolution passed at the first meeting of the A. B. Railway Local Advisory Committee held at Chittagong on 15th June 1923.

“ 27. The poor food supplied by the catering contractor at the station refreshment rooms at Kulaura and Badarpur.

Resolved that the various bodies concerned be asked their opinion on the suggestion to provide meals on "la carte" menus. The idea being that one or more items as required be wired for in advance instead of a full course dinner."

An expression of opinion having been asked for on the above, the Secretary was instructed to reply that this Committee consider the suggestion of no value whatever, and that the only solutions of the present system with which no one is satisfied are a change of contractor, or the running of a dining car as formerly.

Confirmation of reply submitted.

The Committee confirmed the reply already submitted by the Secretary to the following letter :—

Letter No. 802-O., dated 28th June 1923, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, *re* Scientific Officers.

Rainfall Figures.

The Secretary was instructed to write the Government of India, with reference to the rainfall figures, suggesting these should be published from January 1st, reverting to previous custom, for the convenience of comparison.

District Committees.

Minutes of meetings of the following District Committees having been previously circulated, were laid on the table :—

Hailakandi District Committee Meeting held on 7th July 1923.

Happy Valley	"	"	"	9th	"	"
North of Surma	"	"	"	16th	"	"
North Cachar	"	"	"	16th	"	"
Chutla Bheel	"	"	"	16th	"	"
Lungla-Juri-Doloi	"	"	"	25th	"	"

With reference to the Lungla-Juri-Doloi District Committee's request for assistance on the question of taking tolls on the Juri Bridge, the Secretary was directed to write to the Chairman of the Karimganj Local Board for particulars as to this.

Report of the Sub-Committee.

*Minutes of a Meeting of the Sub-Committee dealing with proposed
amendment of Act VI of 1901 and abolition of Act XIII,
held in Silchar, on 23rd July 1923.*

PRESENT :

MR E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C., *Chairman.*
„ A. J. G. CRESSWELL, M.L.C.
„ H. D. MARSHALL, O.B.E.
„ J. C. DAWSON.
„ C. MACLEOD.
„ H. M. JAMES.
„ W. E. D. COOPER, *Secretary.*

(1) This Committee would record after due deliberation and perusal of correspondence on the subject, that they are not in favour of any proposal to amend Act VI at the present time.

(2) Seeing that Act XIII is to be abolished in the near future, they consider, the Association should press the Local Government for an Act to take its place, and protect the industry in this Province, any such Act to include some power to enable Managers of Gardens to enforce regulations with reference to public health and other laws : the present position being that though a Manager is to a large extent held responsible for the death rate, law and order and the carrying out of various other regulations on a garden, he is given no power to enforce any orders that may insure these being made effective.

The following gentlemen were nominated to represent the Surma Valley Branch at any Conference to be held in Calcutta, on the 28th July, on the above subjects :—

MR. A. J. G. CRESSWELL, M.L.C.
„ J. C. DAWSON.
„ C. MACLEOD.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the meeting closed.

After confirming the report of the Sub-Committee on the question of Act VI of 1901 and the abolishment of Act XIII of 1859,—the Hon'ble Mr. W. J. Reid, Finance Minister, Mr. J. Hazlett, I.C.S., the Commissioner of Surma Valley and Hill Division. Mr. R. Friel, I.C.S., the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, and Mr. R. D. Adams, O.B.E., the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal, were present at the meeting by invitation, and took part in the discussion raised on the items Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 in the agenda, with reference to the following subjects :—

No. 4. New Local Rates Bill.

No. 5. Imposition of Income Tax on rent-free quarters.

No. 6. Proposed amendment of Act VI of 1901 and the abolishment of Act XIII of 1859.

No. 7. Stamping of Act XIII agreements.

No. 8. Draft rules under the Indian Boilers Act, published in the *Assam Gazette* dated 13th June 1923.

No. 9. Employment of children in Factories on tea estates.

The Chairman, in welcoming the guests, referred at some length to the various subjects on the agenda, also to the price of petrol and the increasing heavy taxation on tea in recent years! The Hon'ble Mr. W. J. Reid, in replying with reference to stamping of Act XIII agreements, promised to go into the question with the Legal Remembrancer when the Surma Valley Members of Council are in Shillong for the next Council Meeting, and also referred to the drafting of a local measure for consideration of Government to take the place of Act XIII, as far as the tea industry was concerned.

Mr. R. P. Adams, the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal then gave the meeting his views on various matters in connection with the application of the Factory Act to tea gardens, and replied to questions; he hoped that it would be possible to arrange for Boiler Inspections in the cold weather with as little inconvenience as possible, and made suggestions with reference to fencing one particular factory as a standard pattern, which could be visited by all, before any large fencing arrangements were made which might subsequently prove unsuitable.

With a vote of thanks to the officials attending the meeting for the assistance and information they had given with reference to the question under discussion, the meeting terminated.

Death of Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E.

Before commencing the proceedings, the Chairman referred, with deep regret, to the loss of an old friend in Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., and to his valuable services in connection with the tea industry. The Secretary was instructed to send a letter of condolence to Mrs. Kennedy on behalf of the members of the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch.

Proceedings.

The proceedings of the last meeting of the General Committee held on 30th July 1923, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

Applications for billets in the Tea Districts Labour Association.

A letter from the Secretaries of the Tea Districts Labour Association, asking the General Committee of the Branch to recommend any suitable men for a vacancy at their disposal, having been circulated, applications for recommendation was considered.

The Secretary was instructed to recommend, in the order given, the following gentlemen as suitable for work as Local Agents in the recruiting districts :—

- (1) MR. H. B. SANDEMAN.
- (2) MR. A. C. CROCKER.

Stamping of Act XIII Agreements.

The Secretary read out the following letter and the Chairman explained the position ; a letter from Mr. V. F. Hillier with suggestions which has previously been circulated to all members of the General Committee, was considered. It was agreed to await formal orders which will shortly be issued on the subject, and the Secretary was directed to inform Mr. Hillier that the Committee do not think the Government will sanction the use of adhesive stamps. In the meanwhile the Committee can only advise those who wish to stamp

Act XIII agreements, to have these stamped in accordance with the instructions issued by Government :—

ASSAM SECRETARIAT,

D. O. No. 5892-F.

Dated Shillong, 21st September 1923.

Dear MR. COOPER,

I am desired to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter dated the 7th September 1923, on the subject of the stamping of Act XIII agreements, and to say that formal orders will shortly be issued. As you wish to receive information as to this Government's views before the meeting of the General Committee of your Branch on the 24th September, I am to say that this Government are advised that an agreement to labour if reduced to writing must be stamped. It will be a question of fact in each case whether a form or an entry in a register is an agreement, or a memorandum of an agreement to labour.

2. I am to add that orders have been issued cancelling the instructions that District Officers when inspecting tea gardens as Inspectors of Labour should examine agreements and impound those found to be unstamped or improperly stamped. In future such documents will only be impounded if they are produced in Court.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) G. E. SOAMES.

**Indian Income Tax Act: Assessment of the value of
rent-free quarters.**

The following letter No. 1431-I.T., dated 11th September 1923, from the Commissioner of Income Tax, Assam, having been circulated to all members of the General Committee, was laid on the table, together with the following extract from the proceedings of a meeting of the General Committee, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, held on the 28th August 1923, with reference to the above subject :—

Letter No. 1431-I.T., dated Shillong, 11th September 1923.

From—The COMMISSIONER of Income Tax, Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I have the honour to refer to the discussion which I had with the Committee of your Association regarding the assessment to

income tax of the perquisites enjoyed by Superintendents, Managers and Assistant Managers of tea gardens in addition to salary. The Committee as I understood the case, objected to the general assessment of 10 per cent. on salary excluding commission on the grounds that—

- (a) There was reason for making a lower assessment in the Surma Valley than elsewhere owing to the fact that inferior bungalows were the rule.
- (b) That the rate of 10 per cent. of salary was the maximum chargeable under the Act. Accordingly I was asked to reconsider the question with a view to reducing the demand.

After giving the matter my full consideration, I regret to say that I am unable to see my way to reduce the percentage of 10 per cent. which I think in the great majority of cases is a moderate estimate of the value of the perquisites which a garden employee receives in addition to his salary.

With regard to the points raised by the Committee at the meeting, I have the honour to say that even granting that bungalows are not as good and perquisites not as valuable as in the Assam Valley, it is also true that average salaries are higher in the Assam Valley and the proportion borne by the value of perquisites to salary, is apparently fairly constant, and a proportion of 10 per cent. common to the two Valleys is not unfair to the Surma Valley.

Secondly the demand made is not a maximum demand. Salary as defined in the Act, includes commission, and the maximum valuation of a rent-free residence would be 10 per cent. of salary including commission. Also, the 10 per cent. limit imposed by the Act is applicable only to a rent-free bungalow, and all perquisites outside that may be assessed in addition. As these perquisites are nearly always of some value, it will be seen that 10 per cent. of salary is by no means the maximum demand authorised by law.

Finally I would draw the attention of the Committee to the great advantage to all concerned of an agreement which if generally accepted in the Surma Valley as it has been accepted elsewhere will avoid the necessity of a meticulous enquiry into personal matters which cannot but lead to unpleasantness. Also although a general

acceptance will avoid much trouble, every person who feels that the 10 per cent. rule is unfair in his particular circumstances, can apply to have his case dealt with separately.

I trust, therefore the Committee will see its way to recommend a general acceptance of the proposal.

Extract from the proceedings of a Meeting of the general Committee Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, held on the 28th August 1923.

Indian Income Tax : Assessment of the value of rent-free quarters.

A letter dated 10th August had been received from the United Planters' Association of Southern India, containing, with reference to this subject, the information that the Income Tax Authorities in the Wynaad Planting District of Malabar, had accepted a flat rate of valuation of Rs. 35/- for Superintendents' and Rs. 15/- for Assistants' bungalows. It had not been learned what the Income Tax Officers in other districts had decided to do. The Secretary of the Association also stated that his opinion was that all large employers in South India intended themselves to meet the amount of the additional taxation represented by the tax on the value of rent free quarters.

After discussion, the Secretary was instructed to record the following by a majority of the Committee :—

The Committee note with regret that Government is not inclined to meet their views in this matter, though it would appear the views of the Wynaad planters have been met by their Government very much on the lines of the proposals made by the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar and accepted by this Committee, who are still of opinion that the imposition of the maximum of 10% is an injustice, at the same time this Committee do not wish to obstruct the Government, and in view of the insistence of the Commissioner of Income Tax, are prepared to accept—leaving individuals the option of demanding a special assessment.

Recruitment of labour.

The following letter No. 1066-O., dated 5th September, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, with reference to the above question, having been previously circulated, was placed before the meeting :—

No. 1066-O., dated Calcutta, 5th September 1923.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to refer to the conference which took place here on 28th July to discuss the above question *inter alia*.

The following resolution was adopted at the conference :—

This conference of representatives of the Indian Tea Association and of the Assam and Surma Valley Branches accept subject to the approval of the Indian Tea Association, (London), the general principles laid down in the note, dated 25th July 1923, with regard to Act VI and the recruitment of labour.

A telegram has now been received from the Indian Tea Association, (London) to the following effect :—

Act VI : Referring to your letter of 2nd August. Your resolution and general principle in note unanimously approved.

2. It is now proposed to proceed in accordance with the procedure indicated at the conference of 28th July and the next step will be to have the question considered by the special Sub-Committee suggested. I am accordingly to ask your Branch to nominate two representatives to act on the Sub-Committee. In view of the desirability that matters should be proceeded with as soon as possible, I am to ask you to be good enough to let me know the names of your representatives at an early date.

3. I am to take this opportunity of explaining that the position of recruiting for the Dooars has recently been engaging close consideration. The position is rather obscure at present but the general lines which the discussion is taking will be noted from the accompanying copy of the proceedings of a meeting of the Darjeeling and

Dooars Sub-Committee held here on 3rd August. The question was before a meeting of the representatives of Agency Houses with interests in the Dooars held here on 31st August, when the following resolution was passed :—

Resolved that the proposals outlined in the proceedings of the meeting of the Darjeeling and Dooars Sub-Committee held on 3rd August 1923 be referred in the first place to the Dooars Planters' Association for an expression of opinion.

In accordance with this resolution the matter is now being referred to the Dooars Planters' Association for consideration by them and it is possible that at a later stage a joint conference of representatives from the different districts will be arranged to go further into the question. A reference to London regarding the Dooars position, will, however, be necessary so that it is not likely that any definite arrangement can be arrived at in the immediate future.

4. It has been suggested by a prominent planter that a preliminary discussion might be held between the two Branches possibly also with the Dooars Planters' Association, but in view of the position it is possible that the Branches would prefer to discuss it in the first place by themselves. The intention of such a discussion would be to formulate suggestions which could be put up to the proposed Recruiting Sub-Committee. A preliminary discussion of this kind might have very useful results and the question of whether it should take place is left to the discretion of the Branches. It is not proposed that a representative of this Association should attend it, but if particularly desired it could be arranged that one would attend.

The Committee unanimously nominated the Chairman, Mr. E. W. Hobson, and Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. C. Dawson, to represent the Branch on the special Sub-Committee on the above subject.

Certification of Children under the Indian Factories Act.

The following letter No. 1086-O., dated the 8th September 1923, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, with reference to the

above subject, in connection with the draft Assam Factories Rules, 1923, published in the *Assam Gazette* of 15th August 1923, having been previously circulated, was brought under discussion :—

CERTIFICATION OF CHILDREN UNDER THE INDIAN FACTORIES ACT.

“I am directed to make a reference to you on the above subject in connection with the draft Assam Factories Rules, 1923 published in the *Assam Gazette* of 15th August 1923. Suggestions with reference to these rules are required to be submitted prior to 22nd November 1923, when the rules will be taken into consideration.

2. I enclose for your information, a copy of the Bengal Factories Rules, 1923, and invite a reference to the provisions of rules 53 to 56 on page 5 dealing with the arrangements for the medical examination of children by a certifying surgeon. Rule 53 prescribes that the certifying surgeon shall, unless otherwise directed by the Local Government in Rules made under the Act, visit every factory in which children are employed :—

(a) in the case of non-textile factories employing over 150 children ... 6 visits per annum ;

(b) in the case of non-textile factories employing 150 children and under in accordance with the requirements of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal.

Tea Factories would presumably come under (b) in all cases. The draft Assam Factories Rules contain no rule corresponding to rule 53 of the Bengal Rules, that is to say, there is no rule specifying that the certifying surgeon shall pay regular visits to factories. But rule No. 55 of the Bengal Rules corresponds to No. 52 of the Assam draft Rules in providing that the certifying surgeon shall personally examine every child who is in possession of a provisional certificate under section 8 and shall, if satisfied as to its correctness, confirm it.

3. The position as regards certification of children in Assam was referred to in letters of 7th May and 11th July from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, to the Assam Branch. In the letter of 7th May it was stated that “Government imagine, how-

ever, that children will rarely, if ever, be employed in tea houses proper and, as it is only the tea houses that will come under the Act, the questions of employment of children and the certification of age will in practice not arise." The letter of the 11th July contained *inter alia* the following :—"The duties of the Civil Surgeon do not include the visiting of the estates in his district and the confirmation of certificates granted by authorised medical practitioners, which as already stated, are only valid for three months, could be done only by sending the children in question to the Civil Surgeon with their certificates."

Also in a letter of 16th July from the Government of Assam to the Commissioners of the Assam and the Surma Valley Divisions it is stated that :—"It is not intended that Civil Surgeons should make special visits to tea gardens in order to certify children under the Factories Act. Children whose ages have to be certified by the certifying surgeons must be produced before the Civil Surgeon at headquarters but if the Civil Surgeon's ordinary tours take him to any part of the district where there are numerous tea gardens he can publish his tour programme in advance so that managers may send children to his camp. It is hoped, however, that the need for certification will rarely, arise."

4. The object of this reference is to ascertain your opinion as to whether you consider it would be desirable for the industry to ask for amendment of the draft Assam Factories Rules so as to provide that the Civil Surgeon shall pay certain regular visits to tea gardens on the model of the Bengal Factories Rules. The Committee think it is possible that much inconvenience might be caused by the necessity of producing children to have their provisional certificates (granted by registered medical practitioners) endorsed after three months by the Civil Surgeon at headquarters and they would be glad to have your views on the position.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that this Committee consider the employment of children under 15 years in the tea house proper, should be eliminated as far as possible, and that no regular visits from a Civil Surgeon are either necessary or a practical proposition in view of the scarcity of Civil Surgeons and the large areas over which tea houses are scattered.

**Proposed amendment of Section 30 & 34 of the
Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.**

Letter No. J. 603-22-G.J., dated 15th August 1923, from the Under Secretary to the Government of Assam, asking for an expression of opinion on the above subject, having been circulated, was laid on the table.

The Secretary was instructed that an expression of opinion on this subject without competent legal advice is rather beyond their scope.

A Bill further to amend the Indian Limitation Act, 1908.

Letter No. J.- 666-38-G.J., dated 1st August 1923, from the Under Secretary to the Government of Assam, asking for an expression of opinion on the suggested amendments in the Indian Limitation Act, 1908, having been previously circulated, was laid on the table.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that this Committee have no objection to raise to the proposals.

**A Bill to consolidate the Law applicable to intestate and
testamentary succession of British India.**

Letter No. J.-650-4614-19-G.J., dated 30th August 1923, from the Under Secretary to the Government of Assam, together with a copy of the Bill, asking for an expression of opinion, was laid on the table.

The Bill being too long to circulate, the Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee had neither sufficient time, nor legal experience to express an opinion.

Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association.

The following letter together with a synopsis of replies received from Agency Houses on the above question, having been previously circulated—it was decided to await a reply to a letter already addressed to the Honorary Treasurer of the Lady Minto's Indian Nursing

Association, Shillong, on the subject brought forward, before taking any further action :—

Letter No. 1096-O., dated Calcutta, 10th September 1923.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to address you with reference to the above subject which was considered at the meeting of your Branch Committee held on 30th July 1923. It is understood that the circular letter which it was decided at the meeting on 30th July to send to all Managing Agents having interests in the Surma Valley has now been issued. Perhaps you would let the Association have a copy of the circular.

2. The proposal that gardens should contribute to the Association on the basis of Rs. 5/- per 100 acres is one with which members of the Committee are disposed to agree. At the same time the matter is one which will require to be referred to the Indian Tea Association, London, and the Committee feel that to enable them to take up the subject with the London Association, it will be necessary that they should have a full explanation of the position, indicating what it is at present and how it will be improved if the proposed contribution is agreed to. The Committee are not certain of details of the proposals, *e.g.*, whether in return for the contribution of Rs. 5/- per 100 acres it is proposed that the services of the nurses should be available at subscribers' rates for planters' wives and families, or if an additional personal subscription will have to be paid to cover this privilege, whether it is proposed there should be any exceptions, such as, say confinement cases where arrangements can be made in advance for a nurse, etc.

3. In replying to this reference perhaps you will be good enough to indicate generally what complaints were made last year with reference to the existing arrangement.

Assam-Bengal Railway Co., Ltd., Local Advisory Committee.

Correspondence on the subject of constitution of the Local Advisory Committee of the Assam Bengal Railway, also the

correspondence between the Agent, A. B. Ry. and Mr. G. E. Moore, regarding the fitting of first class compartments with fans, having been previously circulated, was laid on the table.

**Question of local representation on the Tea Districts
Labour Association.**

Various complaints having been received as to nomination and election of representatives of the Surma Valley on the Tea Districts Labour Association, indicating that considerable confusion existed, the Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee consider representation of the Surma Valley on the Tea Districts Labour Association, should be made through the General Committee of the Branch, who at present have no direct representation on this body, and to bring this matter to the notice of the Secretaries of the Tea Districts Labour Association, also to protest against the arrangements made for the recent tour of the Rajputana party under Captain Graham, in so far as no direct information was sent to the Secretary of the Branch by the Secretaries, Tea Districts Labour Association, the first intimation received being a wire from the Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, asking for information regarding this party.

Supply of Vaccines and Seras for the Surma Valley.

The Chairman drew the attention to the fact that now-a-days most of the serious diseases on tea gardens were treated by vaccines and seras, and that owing to the rate at which these deteriorated under existing conditions, a large quantity had to be destroyed annually. It was agreed that the only possible way of avoiding this was by the establishment of an ice plant; and the Secretary was instructed to suggest, to the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, that one of the big Tea Companies in Cachar, and another in Sylhet might be asked if they would consider the project of establishing an ice plant and storing vaccines and seras to be retailed to Medical Officers as required, all concerns to bear part of the cost.

Babu Suresh Chandra Bhattacharya—author of a book “Material Advantages of India under the British Crown”, having

applied to the Branch for pecuniary assistance, the Secretary was instructed to purchase and distribute a copy to all members of the General Committee.

It being understood that Mr. W. A. Bain, late Chairman of the Indian Tea Association, London, was visiting India this cold weather, the Secretary was directed to invite him to visit the Surma Valley and meet the members of the Surma Valley Branch at any date he might find convenient.

Subscriptions for sufferers in the recent earthquake in Japan.

The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar having issued an appeal for subscription for sufferers in the recent earthquake in Japan, Chairmen of District Committees in the Surma Valley consented to open a list and to collect subscriptions in their respective districts.

Meeting of District Committees.

The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the Lungla-Juri-Doloi District Committee held on 26th July 1923:—

Resolution No. 4—Establishment of Toll Bar on Juri Bridge—

The assistance of the General Committee is asked in the matter of the Juri Bridge which was opened free to the public some nine months ago, but has recently been sold for Rs. 2,200 for a period of three years. No tolls have so far been levied, but it is feared that they very soon will be. A big Indian petition is being sent in and it is thought that a letter from the General Committee to the Government of Assam will carry weight.

Resolution passed at a meeting held on 28th August—

With reference to item No. 4 in the minutes of last meeting held on 26th July, tolls have been levied for crossing the Juri River at the usual ghat rates since the 1st August. A breach of peace nearly occurred on that day owing to the levying of tolls. When the Karimganj Local Board

decided to put the bridge up for auction, there was no European representing the Juri Valley on the Board. On the 18th of July the bridge was auctioned and it was purchased by a Karimganj resident. Information of the auction was circulated a short time previously by the Chairman of the Karimganj Local Board. It may be mentioned that one side of the bridge is in the Maulvi Bazar Sub-Division, South Sylhet. Local feeling against the tolls is very bitter. This levying of tolls we consider a bad precedent and we may mention that a petition against it signed by 3,000 Indian is being submitted to Government.

Correspondence on the subject of the toll bar on the Juri Bridge, having been previously circulated, Mr. F. W. Wilson as representing the Juri Valley was asked to join in the discussion which followed.

The Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee have no objection to the principle of collecting tolls, but consider the money so collected should go to the Local Board for the further improvement of communications, and that such bridges should not be let to a contractor as money making concerns without very careful consideration. From figures supplied by Mr. Wilson it appeared the tariff would fall very heavily on neighbouring gardens to the advantage of the lessee, it was therefore suggested the Local Government might institute an enquiry as to the rates of toll, probable receipts, etc.

**Suggested Amalgamation of the North of Surma District
Committee with the Lungla-Juri-Doloi District
Committee.**

Letter dated 4th August 1923.

From—MR. P. WOODLAND.

To—MR. H. M. JAMES.

Proposed amalgamation of the North Sylhet Committee with Lungla-Juri-Doloi Committee.

We are strongly in favour of the proposal provided North Sylhet is given a representative on the Committee and that the

amalgamated Committee are fully represented on the General Committee in proportion to the size of the districts represented.

RESOLUTION PASSED AT A MEETING OF THE LUNGLA-JURI-DOLOI
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON 28TH AUGUST 1923.

The question of the amalgamation of the North Sylhet Committee with our own was considered and we are in favour of it on the terms laid down in Mr. Woodland's letter, except that we consider that all the members of the North Sylhet Committee who are eligible should join our Committee.

With reference to the above and in view of the difficulties of the member resident in North Sylhet, attending meetings in Silchar, members of the General Committee present agreed that due notice having been given in these minutes, they would be prepared to alter the rules of the Branch at the next meeting, permitting a combination of the North of Surma and Lungla-Juri-Doloi District Committee, who would then be represented by three members.

NORTH AND NORTH-WEST CACHAR DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

RESOLUTION :—

Sales of Stolen Teas.

Assuming that in order to check dealings in stolen teas, and to prevent the same being retailed in local bazaars, it was recommended by the Indian Tea Association some years ago, that all garden managers should give "Certificates of Origin" to Indians purchasing teas locally. Is there any authority deputed by the Local Government—such as Police—to examine stocks of tea being retailed in the local bazaars, to compare them with the "Certificates of Origin", and to cancel these certificates when the stock of tea covered by them is disposed of, or in any other way to prove *bona fide* ownership ?

With reference to the above, the General Committee consider from their past experience and that of other Branches that little or no help can be hoped for from Government in issuing "Certificates of

Origin", or that such certificates would prove particularly effective owing to the difficulty in identifying tea in Court of Law. They do, however, consider a great necessity has arisen for a supply of good cheap tea to be made available in the Surma Valley and make the suggestion that the Tea Cess Committee be asked to open depôts in Cachar and Sylhet where tea drinking amongst Indians was universal and their legitimate means of obtaining this limited.

CHUTLA BHEEL DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The following resolution was passed at a meeting held on the 16th March 1923 :—

"Mr. Emblen brought to the notice of the meeting that a garden servant had been instructed to act in an official capacity by the Extra Assistant Commissioner, Silchar, without previous reference to the management. It was pointed out by other members that this was not the first occasion on which direct action had been taken without reference to the garden Manager and while fully admitting the right of Government so to act, it was considered and recommended that the courtesy of previous intimation to the management would be appreciated."

With reference to the above, the Secretary was instructed to ask the Deputy Commissioner that in cases of this sort, at a courtesy, to pass executive orders that the garden manager should be informed.

Tariff Board Committee.

A letter from Mr. E. B. Baker on the subject of making protest against preferential tariffs was read to the meeting and the contents noted.

Proceedings.

The proceedings of the last meeting of General Committee held on the 24th September 1923, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation; the minute under the following heading was then

discussed, together with a reply received from the Secretaries, Tea Districts Labour Association :—

QUESTION OF LOCAL REPRESENTATION ON THE TEA DISTRICTS
LABOUR ASSOCIATION.

“ Various complaints having been received as to nomination and election of representatives of the Surma Valley on the Tea Districts Labour Association, indicating that considerable confusion existed, the Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee consider representation of the Surma Valley on the Tea Districts Labour Association should be made through the General Committee of the Branch, who at present have no direct representation on this body, and to bring this matter to the notice of the Secretaries of the Tea Districts Labour Association, also to protest against the arrangements made for the recent tour of the Rajputana party under Capt. Graham, in so far as no direct information was sent to the Secretary of the Branch by the Secretaries, Tea Districts Labour Association—the first intimation received being a wire from the Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, asking for information regarding this party.”

Letter dated Calcutta, 6th November 1923.

From—The SECRETARIES, Tea Districts Labour Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

In continuation of our letter of the 10th ultimo, we have to say that the resolution was placed before the meeting of the General Committee of this Association on the 2nd instant and the following extract of the minutes is sent for your information :—

“ After some discussion, in the course of which it was pointed out that the intention of the present system was that representatives should be elected by individual managers, and that it was open to the Branch to suggest to their members the names of suitable candidates, it was decided that this meeting was not in favour of any change in the present method and that the Chairman of the Surma Valley Branch be advised accordingly.”

The Secretary was instructed to write the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, pointing out that the views expressed above were the considered opinion of the General Committee, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, and asking them for their fullest support in again bringing the matter to the notice of the Executive Committee, Tea Districts Labour Association. He was further directed to call attention to the nature of the reply, considering the General Committee of this Branch are frequently called on for assistance in arranging tours for Local Agents by a body on which they are not in any way directly represented.

Further reference was made to the number of Managers who had never received voting papers for any election to the Tea Districts Labour Association, resulting in various enquiries as to how these elections were conducted, and the Secretary was directed to say with reference to these elections, the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch would be grateful to the General Committee, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, if they would ascertain and inform them as to the number of Managers in the Surma Valley who voted at the last election.

They would also be glad to know the reason why Mr. Ambler's recent tour in the Surma Valley was suddenly cancelled, causing great inconvenience.

Recruiting arrangements for the Dooars and Terai.

The Chairman spoke at some length on the subject matter of the recent conference in Calcutta, and regretted the fact that the conference arranged in Haflong at which Assam and Dooars representatives were to have been present, had not been possible.

Reference to the Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the Dooars Planters' Association held on 10th October 1923, the views of the Committee were asked as to admission of the Dooars to work under the auspices of the Tea Districts Labour Association—it was agreed that this Committee were of opinion the Dooars gardens should only be admitted under identical rules and regulations now in force for the Assam and Surma Valleys in the recruiting districts.

Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association.

Dated Shillong, 29th September 1923.

From—The HONORARY TREASURER, Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, Assam Branch,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Reference your letter dated 15th September 1923, forwarding a copy of a letter from the Assistant Secretary, Indian Tea Association. Before I can reply to your enquiry regarding admission on the new terms, I would like to know, if it be possible for you to estimate what the receipts would be at the proposed levy of Rs. 5 per 100 acres. This figure is necessary to allow of comparison with the subscriptions now received.

The favour of a very early reply would oblige.

Dated Binnakandi, 3rd October 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The HONORARY TREASURER, Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, Assam Branch.

In reply to yours of the 29th ultimo I attach a copy of the estimate we put up to the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, which will, I think, give you the information you require as to receipts on a levy of Rs. 5 per 100 acres.

There will probably be a few Indian owned and other gardens that will not subscribe, but I do not imagine these will amount to more than 10,000 acres—say, Rs. 500, so you might estimate subscription will bring in Rs. 6,000 on this basis.

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE LADY MINTO'S
NURSING ASSOCIATION FROM THE SURMA VALLEY.

Subscription on 130,000 acres of tea @			
Rs. 5 per 100 acres	...	...	Rs. 6,500 0 0
Subscription from Government Officials, Saw Mills, Oil Wells, etc.			
	...	...	Rs. 1,000 0 0
Subscription received from fees (esti- mated)			
...	...	...	Rs. 5,500 0 0
Total estimated receipts			Rs. 13,300 0 0

D. O. No. 5612-E., dated Shillong, 23rd October 1923.

From—The SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

I am desired to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter dated 3rd October 1923 to Ballantine on the subject of the provision of an additional Nurse for the Surma Valley and the proposal that the tea estates should contribute at the rate of Rs. 5 per 100 acres. The matter was discussed at a Committee meeting of the Assam Branch of the Lady Minto's Nursing Association on the 22nd instant. The estimate of receipts from fees and from Government servants and firms other than tea estates, which you furnished in your letter quoted above are I am afraid unduly optimistic. The average amount realized in fees during the past 4 years is only Rs. 3,100 while receipts from firms other than tea estates and from personal subscriptions including the family subscriptions from tea garden managers and assistants amount only to about Rs. 270 a year.

With a subscription at the rate of Rs. 5 per 100 acres you estimate an income of Rs. 6,000. Omitting personal subscriptions from married Managers and Assistants, we may expect in addition Rs. 3,100 in fees and about Rs. 200 in other subscriptions, *i.e.*, a total income of Rs. 9,300. The salary of 4 nurses including the fixed contribution to be paid to the Central Committee for contributions to passage and uniform expenses, etc., amounts to Rs. 9,400

year. The actual additional expenditure now incurred on 3 nurses, *i.e.*, on messing, bungalow expenses, etc., amounts to Rs. 3,600 a year. Adding Rs. 1,000 for a fourth nurse, the total expenditure will be Rs. 13,000 against an income of Rs. 9,300. I may add that the Central Committee are hard pressed for funds and are not prepared to supply nurses unless they are fully recouped for all expenditure. It will be seen that your proposals do not make the Surma Valley Branch scheme financially possible. The receipts do not justify even 3 nurses. The Committee have directed me to place these facts and figures before your Branch Association and to say that they cannot recommend any scheme which is not self-supporting. Unless therefore your Association will either increase the rate of subscriptions, or will give a definite guarantee to make good the deficit that may occur in any year, the Committee cannot recommend the employment of an additional nurse. On the other hand the Central Committee may require a reduction in the number of nurses now supplied.

2. I am to add that the figures now given do not include any part of the cost of maintaining the nurses in Shillong who are available for service in either Valley. In the opinion of this Committee it would be better if both Valleys combined and put forward a scheme which would make the provincial branch as a whole entirely self-supporting.

The above correspondence having been previously circulated to all members, was laid on the table. After some discussion the Secretary was instructed to record that under the circumstances this Committee did not feel disposed to proceed any further in the matter at the present time; they were surprised to learn the very small amount of subscriptions collected outside the tea industry, and that the estimated amount earned by four nurses would be the same as the amount earned by three.

**Draft Convention of Arbitration Clauses prepared by the
Economic Committee of the League of Nations.**

Letter No. 5165-68-E., dated 28th September 1923, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, together with a copy

of letter No. 4659, dated the 11th September 1923 and enclosure, from the Government of India, Department of Commerce, on the subject of the draft Convention of Arbitration Clauses prepared by the Economic Committee of the League of Nations, and asking the views of the Branch on the proposal that India should adhere to the Protocol and that the law in British India should be amended so as to be brought into harmony with the provisions of the Protocol, having been previously circulated to all members of the Committee, was now considered.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that this Committee are in favour of any such form of arbitration as that proposed, tending to reduce litigation.

The Assam Water Hyacinth Bill, 1923

Letter No. 635-711-L., dated 13th September 1923, from the Secretary, Legislative Department, Assam, forwarding for an expression of opinion, a copy of the above Bill, with Statement of Objects and Reasons, having been circulated, was laid on the table, as follows :—

THE ASSAM WATER HYACINTH BILL, 1923.

An Act to eradicate and destroy the plant known as the Water Hyacinth.

Whereas it is expedient to make provisions for the eradication
from Assam of the plant known as the
Preamble. Water Hyacinth in the manner hereinafter
appearing ;

And whereas the previous sanction of the Governor-General has been obtained, under section 80A, sub-section (3), of the Government of India Act, to the passing of this Act ;

It is hereby enacted as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Assam Water Hyacinth Act,
Short title and extent. 1923.

(2) It extends to the whole of Assam.

2. In this Act the expression " Water Hyacinth " means the
Definition. plant botanically known as *Eichernia*
Frassipes, and includes the seeds and every
part of the plant.

3. The presence of Water Hyacinth in Assam is hereby declared
Public nuisance. to be and is a public nuisance.

4. (1) No person shall possess or keep Water Hyacinth and
Prohibition of possession every owner or occupier of cultivated area
of the plant. shall destroy any Water Hyacinth growing
in or any such place belonging to or occupied by him, in accordance
with the rules made under this Act.

(2) Every owner or occupier of cultivated area shall render
all possible help in personal labour or by materials towards the
construction of storage pounds or floating fences either by the Boards
or by Government or by the local public as a protective measure
against incursion of weeds from outside or from the neighbourhood
of his cultivated area and every such person and all members of the
Panchayat or Village Authority shall see and report that no injury is
done by any person to the fencings or pounds so constructed.

(3) No person shall use Water Hyacinth as a packing
material or carry them from one place to another or deposit in other
lands by any means under any circumstances.

5. (1) Any Government Officer not below the rank of the Sub-
Divisional Officer or the Chairman of the
Power to issue notice and enter upon lands to destroy the plants. Local or Municipal Boards, may serve
such notice as may be prescribed by rules
made under this Act upon the owner or occupier of any cultivated
area to destroy the Water Hyacinth growing thereon in accordance
with the terms of the notice.

(2) If any owner or occupier on whom a notice under this
Act has been duly served, fails to comply therewith, such officer may
authorise any officer subordinate to him to enter upon such place
and take all the measures necessary for the destruction of the weeds
and the officer so authorised shall thereupon enter upon the land
without being liable for trespass or any injury to crops, or rights or
claims of any other description, in performance of the duty so

entrusted to him, and the cost of taking such measures, shall be borne by the said owner or occupier and shall be recoverable as if they were arrears of land revenue.

Penalties.

6. Any person who :—

- (1) possesses or keeps Water Hyacinth or uses such plant as a packing material or carries them from one place to another or deposits in other's lands,
- (2) fails to destroy in accordance with the terms of the notice referred to in section 5, clause (1), any Water Hyacinth which may be found growing in any such place as aforesaid,
- (3) removes any materials of the storage pounds and fencings constructed by the Board or Government or local people or causes any injury thereto shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding 50 rupees or a second or subsequent conviction to a fine not exceeding 100 rupees.

7. The Local Government may make rules for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Power to make rules.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing sections the Local Government may make rules—

- (a) prescribing the methods by which and the time within which the destruction of the Water Hyacinth shall be completed ;
- (b) prescribing the form and the terms of a notice under section 5, clause (1).

8. The Local Government may, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, by Notification, apply all or any of the provisions of this Act to any weed or plant and thereupon such provision shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to such weed or plant.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The plant known as Water Hyacinth (*Eichernia Erassipes*) first made its appearance in this province only a few years ago, but within a short space of time it has spread so rapidly as to constitute

a dangerous menace to crops, pasture lands and fisheries. Paddy fields and grazing lands are, in numerous places, choked and overgrown with the weed and it is reported that even fish are unable to spawn or thrive in water in which it has established itself. If measures are not adopted to grapple with this scourge, large numbers of the population will, before long, find themselves faced with starvation.

This Bill, therefore, is designed to provide effective measures for the complete eradication and destruction of the plant wherever it has taken root. For this purpose the active co-operation of the people, especially the cultivators of the soil, is essential, and with that object in view it is proposed to introduce legislation.

ALAUDDIN AHMED CHAUDHURY,

Member-in-charge.

The Committee thought the provisions of the Bill perfectly sound, and had no objection to offer.

Proposed alteration in Rules 5(a) and 6(a) of the Surma Valley Branch.

The Committee unanimously agreed to alter Rules 5(a) and 6(a) of the Branch to permit a combination of the Lungla-Juri-Doloi and North of Surma District Committees, allowing them a combined representation on the General Committee of three members.

The Secretary was instructed to obtain the consent of those members of the General Committee not present, to the above alteration, which had been asked for by the districts concerned, before altering the rules, and to call for fresh nominations of representatives on the General Committee as early as possible.

Question of representation in the Assam Legislative Council of the Surma Valley Planting Constituency.

The Chairman and Mr. A. J. G. Cresswell spoke on the subject of the future representation of the Planting Community on the Legislative Council of Assam, and the difficulty experienced in

getting men to stand, also as to the necessity for a whole time member to represent European interests and the Tea Industry on the Legislative Assembly at Delhi.

Presentation to Mr. A. J. G. Cresswell.

Mr. A. J. G. Cresswell having left the room, the Chairman referred to the loss the Branch was sustaining by his retirement, and to the valuable services he had rendered the industry in the past. It being felt that many members outside the General Committee would like to subscribe as a mark of esteem in which Mr. Cresswell is held. Chairman of District Committees agreed to collect subscriptions in their respective districts, with a view to making a presentation from members of the Branch on the 3rd January 1924, at a farewell luncheon;—maximum subscription to be limited to Rs. 10/- per head.

Establishment of a toll bar on the Juri Bridge.

Letter No. 5632-E, dated 27th October 1923, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, on the above subject, having been circulated to all members of the Committee, the Secretary was instructed to acknowledge receipt, saying the Committee would be glad to hear the result of the enquiry as to the rates charged and the terms of the auction settlement.

Indian Tea Cess Committee.

Mr. A. J. G. Cresswell having resigned his seat as one of the representatives of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, on the Indian Tea Cess Committee, Mr. J. Reid was nominated in his place.

Assam Labour Board.

Mr. H. L. Bigge having resigned his seat as one of the representatives of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, on the Assam Labour Board, Mr. A. McCreath was nominated to fill the vacancy.

**Question of Indian owned gardens which are non-signatories
to the Labour Rules Agreement.**

Discussion on the subject took place;—the Secretary was directed to supply a list of those proprietors who had signed the Labour Rules Agreements on behalf of the garden and omitted to do so on behalf of others, before the next meeting.

Insurance Companies and the Longai River.

The following letter dated 10th November 1923, from Mr. J. C. Dawson, was laid on the table :—

Will you include the following proposal in the agenda of the next meeting :—

The Insurance Companies are greatly concerned and contemplating refusing to insure or to charge extra fees for boating, if something is not done to clear the Longai river of snags and other obstructions. Under the present conditions and Forest Rules it is useless to clear the river, as each flood brings a fresh lot of drift-wood and other obstructions. It is proposed to approach Government through the I. T. A. and ask them to sanction the clearing of the river outside Reserve Forest, by the bustiwallahs and others—they being allowed to take the drift-wood free of fees. Also traders should not be allowed to float down logs, bamboo rafts, etc., without each one being attended by some person. A drift-wood station to be made at the limit of the Forest Reserve, this would stop the drift getting down the river, each flood and once the river has been cleaned, it could easily be kept cleaned. The Forest Department was approached last season, but they refused to do anything, pleading want of funds, etc."

The Secretary was instructed to approach the local Government with reference to the suggestions made, asking that the "Longai" may be made a Gazetted River. Mr. J. C. Dawson, on behalf of the Longai planters, promised to undertake to clear the river of snags, provided a drift-wood station was made on the boundary of the Forest Reserve and the control of rafts and timber enforced.

Sales of tea locally.

The following letter No. 1336-O., dated 9th November 1923, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, addressed to the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, was laid on the table and ordered to be recorded :—

I am directed to refer to my letter to you dated 20th September in the above connection.

2. The Committee have received a letter on the same matter from the Surma Valley Branch and a copy of this is enclosed herewith.

With reference to the proposals put before the local Government by you for the introduction of legislation to compel non-producing firms and persons exporting tea from the province to produce a Certificate of Origin, or to take out an export license, I am directed to enquire whether you have had any reply from the Local Government, and if so, what views they have expressed in regard to your suggestion.

Proceedings.

The proceedings of last meeting of the General Committee held on 15th November 1923, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

Accounts of the Branch.

A statement of accounts of the Branch for the year ending 31st December 1923, having been circulated to all members of the General Committee, was laid on the table, and on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. R. St. J. Hickman, was unanimously ordered to be passed.

Assam Labour Board.

Mr. C. MacLeod having resigned his seat as one of the representatives of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, on the Assam Labour Board, Mr. E. W. Hobson, M.L.C., was elected to fill the vacancy.

Mr. W. A. Bain.

The following letter from Mr. W. A. Bain, regretting his inability to meet the members of the General Committee at a luncheon on the 15th November last, was ordered to be recorded :—

Dated Burtoll, 16th November 1923.

From—W. A. BAIN, Esq.,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I shall be glad if you will take an opportunity to convey to your members my sincere regret that under Doctor's order, I was compelled to cancel the arrangement to lunch with them at Silchar yesterday.

I appreciated very much the kind thought which prompted the invitation and had I been fit, I would have been delighted to have had the opportunity which it would have afforded of meeting some more of the men in the Valley. I hope no one was inconvenienced by the cancelment of the function.

My illness has had its compensation in letting me experience even more than I might otherwise have done, the kindness and hospitality of the tea planter and his wife.

Indian Boilers Act, 1923.

DRAFT RULES UNDER SECTION 29 OF THE INDIAN BOILERS ACT, 1923.

Letter No. 1400-O dated the 21st November 1923, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, asking the views of the Branch on the above draft rules, published in the *Assam Gazette* on 7th November 1923, was laid on the table for discussion. The Secretary was instructed to reply that this Committee had no criticisms to offer on the draft rules, which they believed would be applied with discretion.

The Indian Tea Cess Committee.

No. 1455-O, dated Calcutta, the 3rd December 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

It may be within the knowledge of the Branch that some time ago the suggestion was made to the Indian Tea Cess Committee that

it was expedient to provide for the representation of Indian planting interests on the Cess Committee. The following is an extract from the proceedings of the half-yearly meeting held on 12th March 1920 :—

Mr. Travers, referring to the Chairman's remarks regarding the suggested increase of the Cess and the proposal to ascertain the views of the various Associations, etc., on the question, enquired how it was proposed to obtain the opinion of the Indian tea planters as such. It seemed to him very desirable, particularly in view of the reforms, that steps should be taken to secure the Indian tea planters support to the proposed increase, otherwise there was a possibility that it would meet with some opposition in Council. In Jalpaiguri there was an Association of Indian Planters—the Indian Tea Planters' Association—and it might be desirable to ascertain their views in the matter. There were already some 35 to 40 Indian gardens in the Dooars—23 of which were members of the Dooars Planters' Association—and it was possible that they would put in a claim for representation on the Committee; and probably if they understood that this claim would be acceded to they might be prepared to agree to an increase in the cess which they would otherwise oppose.

Some discussion took place on this point, which was, it will be remembered, raised at the half-yearly meeting on 14th March 1919. The Committee were quite disposed to agree with the desirability of having Indian representation on the Committee, and they decided to refer the matter to the Executive Committee for further consideration generally, and particularly with reference to the question of obtaining Indian opinion regarding the proposed increase in the Cess. The Cess Act provided, it was noted, for 20 members, three to be appointed on the recommendation of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, one on the recommendation of the Madras Chamber and seven on the recommendation of the Indian Tea Association, the remaining nine being appointed on the recommendation of such respective bodies of authorities interested in the production of tea in India, and established in British India, as the Governor-General in Council may appoint in this behalf. The rules under the Act provide for the distribution of these nine seats. It would be a question for consideration whether the total number of members on the Committee should be increased so as to provide for an Indian representative—in which case the Act would require to be amended

—or whether the distribution of seats as laid down in the rules should be modified. The Committee were inclined to think the former course preferable, and that provision should perhaps be made for the Indian representative to be appointed by nomination : but, as indicated, the matter was meantime left in the hands of the Executive Committee.

2. The question was accordingly considered by the Executive Committee at their meeting on 19th March 1920 and the following is an extract from the proceedings of that meeting :—

The question of the representation of Indian planters on the Cess Committee, which had been raised at the half-yearly meeting on the 19th March, was also considered. It seemed to the Executive Committee that the most satisfactory way of arranging for the representation of Indian planters would be for the Indian Tea Association to agree that two of the nominees should be Indian planters, one as representing Indian interests in Upper Assam, Cachar and Sylhet, and the other similar interests in Bengal.

3. Advantage was subsequently taken of an opportunity to appoint an Indian planter as a representative of Indian interests in Bengal, Mr. A. C. Sen, being appointed for this purpose, and an opportunity now become available for appointing another Indian gentleman to represent Indian interests in Assam. The General Committee have decided in the first place to ask the Assam Branch to suggest the name of a gentleman who might be approached in this connection and it is proposed that representation of Indian interests in Assam should be arranged for by alternate nominations from Upper Assam and from the Surma Valley. The Tea Cess rules provide that a member of the Cess Committee shall hold office for not more than five years at a time.

The above letter having been circulated to all members of the General Committee, was laid on the table for discussion.

The Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee are entirely in agreement with the recommendations made by the Executive Committee.

Indian Representative on the General Committee, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Letter dated 26th December 1923, from Mr. B. Gupta, Manager, Vernerpore Tea Estate, to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association :—

I have had talk with several Indian tea garden proprietors, all of whom said that there ought to be an Indian member on the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association. As you are endeavouring to bring all the tea gardens under the Indian Tea Association. I take the liberty of suggesting that you may be pleased to consider the above matter and take such steps as you deem necessary. They say that there is practically no chance of any Indian going into the General Committee Meeting by votes, as there are very few Indian voters. This has been practically the case with me. Mr. Crozier wanted to put me in, but he failed to do so, as I could not secure votes. I have been in District Committee for the last 15 years. I hope you will please see about this and let me have your views in the matter.

The above letter recently received from Mr. B. Gupta, Manager, Vernerpore Tea Estate, with reference to representation by an Indian Member on the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, was laid on the table for discussion.

Reference was made to the fact that very few Indian owned gardens were now members of the Branch. The Secretary was directed to reply that this Committee are in favour of an Indian representative on the General Committee of the Branch, provided 75% of Indian owned concerns join the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, and would be prepared to alter the Rules of the Branch to admit this :—it being clearly understood that membership of the Branch also entails signature of the Labour Rules. Further to ask Mr. Gupta to use his influence to obtain the consent of 75% of the Indian owned concerns to this proposal.

Labour Rules Agreement.

The Committee confirmed the reply already submitted by the Secretary, to letter No. 1373-O., dated 15th November from the Indian

Tea Association, Calcutta, saying that this Committee were entirely in agreement with the suggestions made with reference to signature of Labour Rules for an indefinite period.

Membership of the second representative of the Balisera District Committee, on the General Committee.

Mr. J. A. Minto, the second representative of the Balisera District Committee on the General Committee, not having attended three meetings, either in person or by proxy, ceased to be a member of the General Committee under Rule 6(h). The Secretary was directed to ask the Balisera District Committee to elect another representative, or if this was found impossible, to make any suggestions they might think fit as to future representation.

Alteration of the Rules of the Branch.

The following alterations of the Rules of the Branch were confirmed :—

Rule 5(a) at present reads as follows :— **Will read in future :—**

The Surma Valley shall be divided into the following *ten* districts :— The Surma Valley shall be divided into the following *nine* districts :—

Luskerpore, Balisera, Lungla-Juri-Doloi, Chargola and Longai, North of Surma, Luckipur, Hailakandi, Chutla Bheel, Happy Valley, North Cachar. Luskerpore, Balisera, Lungla-Juri-Doloi and North of Surma, Chargola and Longai, Luckipur, Hailakandi, Chutla Bheel, Happy Valley, North Cachar.

Rule 6(a) at present reads as follows :— **Will read in future :—**

Luskerpore District shall elect one member. Luskerpore District shall elect one member.
Balisera District shall elect two members. Balisera District shall elect two members.
Lungla-Juri-Doloi District shall elect two members. Lungla-Juri-Doloi and North of Surma shall elect three members.

Chargola & Longai District shall elect two members. Chargola and Longai District shall elect two members.

North of Surma District shall elect one member.

Hailakandi District shall elect two members.

Chutla Bheel District shall elect two members.

Luckipur District shall elect two members.

Happy Valley District shall elect one member.

North Cachar District shall elect one member.

Or, sixteen members in all irrespective of the Chairman.

Hailakandi District shall elect two members.

Chutla Bheel District shall elect two members.

Luckipur District shall elect two members.

Happy Valley District shall elect one member.

North Cachar District shall elect one member.

Or, sixteen members in all irrespective of the Chairman.

A letter from Dr. R. A. Murphy, addressed to Mr. C. S. Cresswell, with reference to the circulation of proceedings to Medical Officers, and the recent visit of Dr. Strickland, together with the Secretary's reply thereto, was laid on the table.

The reply of the Secretary was confirmed and the suggestion agreed to that the matter would be better brought up through the Honorary Secretary of the Assam Branch, British Medical Association.

District Committees.

Minutes of meeting of the following District Committees, having been circulated to all members of the General Committee, were ordered to be recorded :—

Luskerpore District Committee Meeting held on 29th November 1923.

Lungla-Juri-Doloi and North of Surma District Committee Meeting held on 10th December 1923.

Hailakandi District Committee Meeting held on 22nd December 1923.

Annual General Meeting of the Branch.

The Secretary was instructed to find out dates of any meetings to be held in Calcutta during the month of March, and fix a suitable date during that month for the Annual General Meeting of the Branch.

Grovelands Hotel, Haflong.

A letter from Mr. H. B. Sandeman, stating that the Grovelands Hotel, Haflong, was for sale, and suggesting the General Committee of the Branch might like to formulate a scheme for purchasing this as a Sanatorium, was read to the meeting.

The Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee though fully alive to the advantages of a Sanatorium in Haflong, regret they are unable to formulate any such scheme, which they consider outside their province.

Recruiting.

After welcoming Mr. J. A. Milligan, I.C.S., Chairman, Assam Labour Board, the Chairman spoke on the question of Europeans taking part in recruiting operations, and Mr. Milligan explained at some length the system under which permits were granted to Europeans, to assist sinlars in the Madras Presidency. He contradicted the idea that he was in any way responsible for the rush of Europeans to Madras, which was looked on with disfavour by the Assam Labour Board as introducing the competition element, which when translated into rupees could only do harm. He emphasised the necessity for Europeans visiting Madras, proceeding with the greatest caution and playing the game, otherwise he foresaw local officials would not be favourably impressed and the effect on recruiting in the future would be bad, more especially as the system of permits under which Europeans were now assisting in recruiting operations was undergoing a test period.

General discussion on the question of garden managers and Assistants taking part in recruiting operations having taken place, the Secretary was instructed to record—

“That this Committee with one dissentient, agree with the views expressed by their representatives at the Sub-Committee

meeting held in Calcutta on November 2nd, 1923 on this question, and strongly protest against the principle of sending Europeans wholesale to the recruiting districts, whether under permits or otherwise."

Mr. Milligan then addressed the meeting on the question of the decision of the Government of Bihar and Orissa to grant a Local Agent's license to Mr. Pattadar in Ranchi, in favour of any employer who applies for his services. After some discussion on the subject the Secretary was directed to record the following expressions of opinion as the view held by the General Committee of this Branch, for which Mr. Milligan asked :—

- (1) The grant of licenses to independent Local Agents is strongly deprecated. It is the opinion of this Committee that in the best interests of the tea industry the Tea Districts Labour Association should have a monopoly of recruiting.
- (2) No person should hold more than one Local Agent's license. He should represent either one employer, one firm or one Association.
- (3) The Assam Labour Board should have an absolute power of vote in the case of the licensing of Local Agents.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Milligan for the trouble he had taken in explaining various points in connection with recruiting.

Presentation to Mr. A. J. G. Cresswell.

A sum of Rs. 1,200 having been collected from members of the Branch, a cheque for this amount was to be presented to Mr. A. J. G. Cresswell on his retirement, to purchase for himself a piece of plate in England.

At luncheon after the meeting, at which 120 members of the Branch were present, the Chairman made the presentation as follows :—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have firstly a most unpleasant duty to perform and that is to bid farewell, on behalf of the tea industry, to a planter who has for over thirty years done so much for this Valley.

I am not going to describe all Mr. Cresswell has done in detail, as I think this would be most boring to our guest, but there are one or two remarks which I would like to make.

First with reference to Mr. Cresswell's private life, I think the old saying "a freind in need is a friend indeed" describes it fairly accurately, as I have known of many instances where Mr. Cresswell has been a friend indeed to a brother planter in time of need.

Apart from his garden work Mr. Cresswell's time has been divided between politics and polo, and of the two I cannot say which I think he prefers.

With reference to his polo I will say nothing, as I am sure my good friend Mr. Stuart will have something to say with reference to this at dinner to-night.

Now with reference to Mr. Cresswell's political career in this Valley it can be, I think, summed up in one word and that is "honesty," as if you ask Mr. Cresswell his opinion you will get the honest opinion of A. J. G. unbiased by any outside considerations.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity of sincerely thanking Mr. Cresswell for the assistance and loyal support which he has given me personally for the past two years, and I am certain that the General Committee of the Branch will agree with me that Mr. Cresswell's going is an irreparable loss.

Mr. Cresswell, it gives me great pleasure Sir, to present you with this cheque to buy yourself a small memento of the district you have done so much for ; it is a very small return for all you have done, but as you are aware Sir, it is the only form in which we can show our appreciation. We regret your leaving Sir, and should you ever elect to return to this Valley, I am certain there will be a very warm welcome for one who has served it so long, so faithfully, and so well.

Mr. A. J. Cresswell spoke as follows :—

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, Ladies and Gentlemen :—

It is difficult to adequately express my best thanks and appreciation for the handsome Souvenir I have just been presented with, but

I shall hope to purchase a piece of plate that may from time to time remind me of the happy days spent in the Surma Valley and of you all. On former occasions, in order to provide the funds for presentations of this sort by the members of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, a small levy has been made from each garden; on this occasion, I understand, the subscription has been a personal one, which to my mind very much enhances the gift. In my time, I have been the recipient of some cups and pieces of plate, but the real pleasure has often been marred by the feeling that I had had the "Luck of the Draw", or there had been some mishap to the other fellow. The gift I have now received, I am conceited enough to believe, is in the way of an expression of kindly feeling for small services rendered over a long period of years, where the element of chance has been considerably eliminated.

During the 26 odd years I have been connected with the interests of the planting community—much time has been spent in obtaining the advice and ideas of the leading men in the districts, with the endeavour to arrive at a "Concensus" of opinion. On this occasion, the position is changed, as I now find myself commenting making suggestions and expressing my personal views.

LOCAL BOARD.—Although recently I have not had a seat on the Silchar Local Board, I have had the advantage of serving a long apprenticeship, not only as a member of that Board, but in the frequent study of the working of the different Local Boards in the Province, with the result that I desire to congratulate the Silchar Local Board, on being the only Board that is still honoured with an Official Chairman. Before proceeding, let me clearly say, no reflection is cast on the other Boards in the Surma Valley, where the constitution of the Boards is such as to make the electing of an Official Chairman more or less an impossibility. Sir, I have some reason to believe an attempt may possibly, in the near future, be made to bring the Silchar Local Board into line. I therefore take this opportunity to suggest that no stone be left unturned in order to retain the Deputy Commissioner as Chairman of the Board, and I shall hope in the future to hear that the Board continues to retain its position as second to none in matters of integrity, utility, and general advancement.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.—For a long spell, proprietors, shareholders and agents were extremely fortunate in securing at little or

no expense or inconvenience, the services of leading planters to safeguard their interests. Times have changed, and the position of representing the industry now involves considerable self sacrifice and much spade work, to say nothing of frequent absence from the garden and loss of valuable time, while further it is most advisable and necessary in the interests of all, that the best men when elected, should be allowed by their employers to accept Office. When the present reforms first came into force, I was of the opinion, that the securing of a barrister or trained debater with the necessary knowledge and skill of making the best of the right of reply was advisable; as you will be well aware, the difficulty of placing a subject, and one's views on the same before the House is not so great, the difficulty in my opinion lies chiefly in having heard the numerous speakers for and against, to then successfully bring home the most convincing points before winding up the debate. Well, Sir, I have changed my opinion, and for the present I consider the industry in the Surma Valley does well to elect planters with long experience of the District. Because it has seemed to me, at least as far as the last Council existed, that many of its Indian Members were intensely conservative, and were prepared to be frequently influenced by those who had lived long in the province, and had knowledge of their lives and conditions.

The first period under the reforms scheme has now passed, and it has been marked all over India by Legislation on western lines, and for the present, it appears that further western measures will be the order of the day. The Indian legislator often reminds me of the man, who was obliged to place himself in the hands of a surgeon, to whom he most emphatically explained, he could stand anything that was necessary *except pain*. The Indian councillor is open to support much in the way of modern advancement and ideas, but taxation, "no".

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—With regard to the interests of the industry in the Province of Assam, and the welfare of those connected with it, it seems to me, that in order to secure efficient and continued representation, the time is not far distant, when it may be advisable to obtain the services of a paid trained politician. If such a man could be found, with matured knowledge of the province, so much the better, but inasmuch as many of the topics, measures and debates are more imperial than provincial, the necessity to my mind

is not imperative. Such a representative, as I suggest, would, when necessary, be supplied with a detailed brief on all important points, which would enable him, when called upon, to fully voice and invite special attention to local needs and opinion.

THE FUTURE.—Personally speaking, I am strongly opposed to such expression, it will go my time, better give away here. Don't insist on this pending elections. It will be worse for the industry, etc., and I sincerely trust, before long the feeling of insecurity may be lessened. In your relationship with Government and its Officials, I advocate courtesy with firmness, which associated with the greatness of your imperialism, may not only assist, encourage, and strengthen the Officers of the Crown in the conduct of affairs under conditions, which so often seem difficult and uncongenial, but will also tend to enlist the sympathy, and if necessary, the co-operation of those of our race residing in many parts of the empire, depicted all red on the Atlas.

YOURSELVES.—To those coming out to be planters during the earlier periods of their service, a considerable improvement in the terms offered, have in recent years come about. Not only better salaries and other allowances, but by the institution of provident Funds and more favourable leave rules. To these, when the time comes to finally decide whether their lives are to be wholly spent in the tea districts. I desire, under no circumstances, to suggest the advice of Mr. Punch to those about to get married, but I would urge from the start they make every effort to grasp the political situation of the country, and be cautious. To those more senior, the position is somewhat different. It is true, just now commissions are good, but "two swallows do not make a summer", and the average commission of last 20 odd years or so, plays a prominent part. To you here to-day the more senior planters, I say, be not dismayed, resting assured that the increasing difficulties, anxieties, and skill required in successfully managing the garden in your charge, must and will in the future secure adequate remuneration for services so cheerfully rendered.

On this occasion, when I now wish you good-bye, or it may be an revoir, it is perhaps natural that some memory of past events arises. I allude just now to the time when the Cachar and Sylhet Branches of the Association were amalgamated. Of Cachar conditions I had some knowledge, but with regard to Permanent

Settlement, Elam, Moditide Elam (Pratabgarh) and other special Rules, I was entirely at fault, and I have always felt how much I owed to Mr. Donald Ferguson of Dhamai, and the late Mr. Brown Constable of Adam Tila, for their help and kindly tuition. During the many years I have interested myself in Tea Association matters, having resided all my time in Cachar, it is but natural that I should have more frequently come in contact with the managers of gardens in that District, but I have always felt greatly encouraged and rewarded by the confidence and whole-hearted support I have invariably received from the residents of Sylhet.

In conclusion, I now drink to the increasing prosperity, good luck and the best health of you all, coupled with the welfare of the industry you so ably represent.

Assam Boiler Rules.

The following letter No. 62-65-R, dated Shillong, the 9th January 1924, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, is published for the information of all members of the Branch :—

I am directed to refer to Mr. Chaudhuri's Memo. No. 3020-55-R, dated the 19th December 1923, and to say that copies of the Assam Boiler Rules framed under Section 29 of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923 (Act V of 1923) are available in the Secretariat Book Depot for sale at the price of -/2/6 a copy.

I am now to request that you will be so good as to inform the Boiler owners of tea gardens that the copies of the rules required by them may be obtained on application to the Officer-in-Charge of the Secretariat Book Depot, Shillong.

Improvement of financial resources of Local Boards.

Before commencing the proceedings, the Chairman referred to a Committee on which he had been asked to serve to advise as to means by which the financial position of Local Boards might be improved. General discussion took place and various suggestions were made.

Proceedings.

The Proceedings of last Meeting of the General Committee held on 3rd January 1924, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

Electoral Rolls.

The Committee had before them a letter No 114-116-L., dated 25th January 1924, from the Secretary, Legislative Department, Assam, inviting a reference to Rule 9(6) of Electoral Rules, and asking the opinion of the Branch as to whether the preparation of a list of amendments in each constituency should be done annually or at some shorter interval.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that this Committee considered the preparation of a list of amendments in each constituency should be done twice annually, in view of the frequent changes owing to voters going on leave or being transferred to another garden.

Indian Factories Act.

Letter No. 136-38-R., dated 19th January 1924, from the Under-Secretary to the Government of Assam, Revenue Department, to the Commissioners, Assam Valley Division and Surma Valley and Hill Division, and the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal and Assam :—

I am directed to refer to this Department Notifications Nos. 329-R, and 330-R., dated the 7th February 1923, forwarded to you with Government letter No. 1535-38-R., dated the 15th June 1923 and to say that the Government of Assam proposed to extend the exemptions for another year subject to the approval of the Government of India and pending further orders the exemptions should be held in force.

The 7th February 1923.

No. 329-R.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 30 and 32 of the Indian Factories

* Act XII of 1911.

Act,* 1911, as modified up to

1st July 1922, the Governor in Council is pleased to

exempt as a temporary measure factories situated on and used solely for the purposes of tea plantations in the Province of Assam from the provisions of sections 22 and 27 of the Act during the manufacturing season from 1st April to 30th November, provided that no one shall be required to work continuously without a whole day's leave for more than fourteen days at a time.

This order will remain in force up to 31st December 1923.

(Sd.) A. J. LAINE,

Second Secretary to the Government of Assam.

The 7th February 1923.

No. 330-R.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 32 of the Indian Factories Act*
*Act XII of 1911. 1911, as modified up to 1st July 1922, the Governor in Council is pleased to exempt as a temporary measure factories situated on and used solely for the purposes of tea plantations in the Province of Assam from all the provisions of the section 21 of the Act.

Provided that the number of workers employed on a particular job is always at least twenty-five per cent greater than the number actually required to do the work at any given time.

This order will remain in force up to the 31st December 1923.

(Sd. A. J. LAINE,

Second Secretary to the Government of Assam.

The above correspondence having been previously circulated to all members of the Branch was ordered to be recorded;—the Chairman called the attention of the Committee to the two main points on which they had agreed on behalf of their members of the Branch to meet the authorities as far as possible :—

(1) Fencing of machinery.

(2) Employment of children under 15 years, near running machinery.

Letter from the Joint Agent, I. G. & R. S. N. Co., Fenchuganj and the Engineer in charge of the workshops there, referring to the detrimental effect of a strict adhesion to the Factory Act on their business, having been previously circulated, Mr. B. A. Martin requested the support of the Branch in asking for the same exemptions as were at present granted to tea factories, on the grounds that this Workshop did a large amount of repair work for tea garden factories, which were only shut down for a short time in the cold weather—during which time all repairs had to be completed.

The Committee agreed on the proposition of Mr. Gunnery, seconded by Mr. Dawson, to support Mr. Martin's application, with a view to mitigating the rules as suggested in the correspondence, on the grounds that this was the only Workshop in the district which could deal with a break-down a very serious matter during the manufacturing season.

Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association.

D. O. No. 3-E., dated Shillong, the 2nd January 1924,

From—MR. G. E. SOAMES,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter dated the 23rd November 1923 on the subject of the proposed subscription of Rs. 5 per 100 acres, my Committee desire me to state that they fully appreciate the advantage of the proposal in so far as it substitutes a fixed income for the present system of individual subscriptions. In a letter of the 23rd October, I was instructed to point out that the income so obtained would not justify this Committee in asking the Central Committee to provide an additional Nursing Sister. The Committee have further considered the matter and have consulted the Chief Lady Superintendent and I am now to suggest that the scheme should be introduced experimentally for a year with the existing number of nurses, further consideration being postponed until the financial results of the year were known and the Committee were in a position to judge the situation more accurately. I am to enquire whether the Surma Valley Branch will agree to this.

I am to add that the proposed subscription of Rs. 5 per 100 acres will cover the wives and families of the managers and assistant managers of the companies and firms which adopt the scheme.

I am also to assure your Branch Association that, although an additional nurse cannot be stationed at Silechar next year, the Lady Superintendent will always endeavour to send a fourth nurse at any time that the services of an additional nurse are needed. I had already informed you in my previous letter that the nurses stationed in Shillong are available for duty anywhere in the province.

The above letter was ordered to be recorded ; the question of a combined scheme for the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys being under consideration : it was agreed that nothing further could be done till suggestions for dealing with both Valleys had been made, beyond recording that any new scheme should include the stationing for two nurses in Sylhet.

The Committee considered correspondence that had passed between the Secretaries, Tea Districts Labour Association and Mr. H. B. Sandeman, with reference to their recommendation, which they noted had not been acted upon.

**System of election to the General Committee, Tea Districts
Labour Association.**

Letter No. 189-O., dated 6th February 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, together with a copy of letter received by them from the Tea Districts Labour Association in the above connection, having been circulated to all members of the General Committee was ordered to be recorded.

Dated Calcutta, the 4th March 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Tea Districts Labour Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

We are in receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo in connection with the election of the governing bodies of this Association and in answer to your enquiry, have to say that of a total of 136 voting

papers submitted to constituents in the Surma Valley, 59 only were returned to this office duly completed.

It is hardly possible that 76 papers could have gone astray and the return mentioned above would seem to indicate that over 40% of Surma Valley electors do not exercise the right to nominate a member to represent their interest in the Association.

We think you are aware that this matter received the attention of the Executive Committee and the result was communicated to the Secretary of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and a copy subsequently submitted to your office (*vide* the proceedings of the Indian Tea Association Meeting held on the 5th February 1924).

If you desire any other information or the names of the gentlemen who exercised the vote on the last occasion, we shall be glad to meet your wishes.

International Labour Conference.

Letter No. 225-26 F.M., dated 11th January 1924, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, forwarding a copy of the Government of India Press Communique relating to the Sixth International Labour Conference to be held at Geneva on the 16th June 1924, having been previously circulated was laid on the table.

The Assam Labour Board.

In a letter dated 8th February 1924, the Chairman of the Assam Labour Board stated that the term of three years for which the members of the Board were elected would expire on 30th April 1924; he accordingly asked that the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association should elect three members to represent the Association on the Board for the ensuing three years.

The Committee confirmed the election of the following three members as representatives of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, on the Assam Labour Board :—

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C.

MR. J. C. DAWSON, M.L.C.

MR. A. MCCREATH.

Assam European Representative on the Legislative Assembly.

Correspondence on the subject of the nomination of Mr. T. A. Chalmers for the Legislative Assembly between the Branch Secretary and the Assam Branch, was confirmed after previous circulation.

Braemar Hotel, Shillong.

A letter dated 13th February 1924, from the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, forwarding a copy of a circular to the Chairmen of their Sub-Committees with regard to subsidising the above Hotel for the benefit of planters, their wives and families, and asking the Surma Valley Branch if they can give any support to the suggested scheme of subsidising the above Hotel, was read.

The Committee considered the subsidising of hotels outside their province having no funds for the purpose.

Clearing of the Longai River.

Letter No. 306-R, dated 14th February 1924, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, forwarding a copy of the note recorded of the discussion between the Conservator of Forests, Assam, and Mr. J. C. Dawson, on the subject of the clearing of the Longai river of snags, having been circulated to all members of the Committee, was laid on the table.

Mr. Dawson informed the Committee that the question had been settled satisfactorily and the Committee would record their satisfaction with arrangements made by the Conservator of Forest.

District Committees.

Minutes of Meetings of the following District Committees having been circulated to all members of the General Committee were ordered to be recorded :—

Balisera District Committee Meeting held on 31st January 1924.

Chutla Bheel . " " " 16th February "

Coolies Concession Fares from Recruiting Districts.

Letter No. M. G.-9-1/23, dated 26th February 1924, from the Traffic Manager, Assam-Bengal Railway to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association :—

“ You are aware that coolies are carried at reduced rates over this railway, on production of a form (T. 102), copy of which is enclosed, signed by the Garden Manager. The forms are obtained from this office on application. If the number of coolies who are to travel at the reduced rate is entered in the form at the time of signature the chance of a fraud being perpetrated is reduced to a minimum, but this in every case is not being done; instead the form is signed only and the number of coolies who are to travel is omitted.

I believe the chief difficulty from some Managers' point of view in completing the form in question is that they do not know how many coolies will actually travel, but on the other hand this practice lends itself to fraud and it will perhaps be necessary to withdraw the concession unless the railways interests are safe-guarded. It is for this reason that I am addressing you with the request that you will favour me with your views. If a form is not completed in all respects before being handed to a Sirdar, it is possible for that man to purchase tickets for the ordinary public, at reduced rates, or for a Booking Clerk receiving a blank form to enter false figures, realise full fares from ordinary passengers and submit the form to the Audit Office as authority for the issue of a large number of tickets at reduced rates, and misappropriate the balance. This was the fraud to which I referred to the previous paragraph.”

The above letter having been read to the Meeting, the Secretary informed the Committee Mr. Baker had agreed to address all members at the General Meeting on the subject. Doubts were expressed as to whether the omission complained of was on the part of Managers of Gardens or the Tea Districts Labour Association Agents. The Secretary was instructed to enquire as to the procedure with reference to coolies concession fares from the Recruiting Districts.

Unremunerative Post Offices.

The following having been previously circulated and doubts expressed as to whether losses shown were annual or monthly, it was agreed to await a reply to the Secretary's letter to the Superintendent of Post Offices, Cachar Division, in which he had asked how the figures showing such a large monthly loss were arrived at, and it was also agreed the figures might be asked for showing the profits made by other Post Offices in the Surma Valley.

Letter No. A-98, dated 21st February 1924.

From—The SUPERINTENDENT, Post Offices, Cachar Division,
To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Regarding unremunerative Post Offices.

Name.	Deficit.
1. Salehapra ...	17/-
2. Banskandi ...	34/-
3. Barkola ...	37/-
4. Damcherra ...	18/-
5. Derby ...	59/-
6. Lala ...	35/-
7. Kalibaribazar ...	15/-
8. Kalain ...	44/-
9. Palanghat ...	37/-
10. Rosekandi ...	67/-
11. Sialtic ...	77/-

I have the honour to say that the Post Offices named in the margin are working at a loss. The monthly deficit is noted against each. As these Post Offices are maintained chiefly in the interests of the Tea Garden Managers who are members of your Association, I beg to request you kindly to enquire and intimate to me if a monthly contribution equal to deficit would be forthcoming till such time as the offices become self-supporting.

The favour of an early reply is requested.

Proceedings.

The proceedings of the last meeting of the General Committee held on 11th March 1924, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

The Workmen's Compensation Act.

The following letter No 570-O., dated the 12th April 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, together with its enclosures,

asking for an expression of opinion of this Branch of the Association on the draft rules under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, having been circulated to all members of the Committee, was now considered.

No. 570-O., dated Calcutta, 12th April 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

You may have seen, from the proceedings of the meeting of the General Committee held on 25th March, that the Chairman of the Association has received, and has accepted, an invitation from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to act as a member of a standing Sub-Committee which the Chamber has decided to appoint for the consideration of questions affecting the Indian Factories Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, and other industrial legislation.

2. The Sub-Committee has now been asked to consider, *inter alia*, draft rules which have been issued for criticism by the Government of India under Section 32 of the Workmen's Compensation Act. Section 32 of the Act confers power on the Governor-General in Council to make rules for certain purposes and a copy of notification by the Government of India No. L-859, dated 10th March 1924 is sent herewith. You will see that the draft rules are to be taken into consideration on or after 16th June.

3. The Chairman directs me to ask you to be good enough to favour me with an expression of the views of your Committee on the draft rules as it will be of assistance to him, when the matter is being discussed in the Chamber Sub-Committee of which he is a member, if he has your Committee's views.

The Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee, though they consider the Act premature, have no objection to raise to the draft rules on the grounds that considerably more compensation is now given by most gardens to their employees, in case of accidents than suggested in the rules—that light work is always provided for employees incapacitated by minor accidents, and that the industry has never allowed anyone to suffer from an accident whether this has taken place inside or outside the factory. They would further record that

they consider any contemplated Insurance might be run by the Association, funds being provided by a tea cess,—also that they are in complete agreement with the suggestion made by the Indian Tea Association to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, as recorded in their letter dated 13th October 1921, published in the Annual Report for that year.

Advances in the recruiting districts.

Letter No. 578-O., dated 14th April 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, forwarding for reference copies of a report dated 5th January 1917, by a Sub-Committee appointed in 1916, to consider and to report on certain questions in connection with the cost of Sirdari recruitment, and asking for an expression of opinion regarding the amounts of the advances to sirdars in the recruiting districts, having been circulated to all members of the Committee, was laid on the table for discussion.

After considerable discussion, a majority of members were not in favour of increasing the amount of advance to sirdars in the recruiting districts beyond that agreed to, by the Sub-Committee appointed in 1916, at the same time they would record that they fully recognise the difficulty of one district suggesting what advance sirdars should be given by another, and are prepared to give the district representatives on the Tea Districts Labour Association, a free hand to agree to an increase in advances, if after hearing the representatives of other districts, they consider a higher scale is necessary.

Assam-Bengal Railway—Local Advisory Committee.

In accordance with arrangement made that the seat on the above Committee allotted to the Indian Tea Association, be filled by a nominee from the Assam Branch for the first year ending May, 1924, and by the Surma Valley Branch for the following year, the two Branch Associations being subsequently represented in alternate years, Mr. George Moore of the Jokai (Assam) Tea Co., nominated by the Assam Branch on the above Committee for the first year, having gone home on leave, Mr. D. Paterson of Aenakhall Tea Estate, Monacherra P. O. Cachar, was unanimously nominated for the seat vacated by Mr. Moore.

Election of Local Board Members.

Correspondence between Mr. D. Ferguson and the Secretary, with reference to the method of registration of voters on the electoral roll for Local Board elections, having been previously circulated, the Secretary's reply was confirmed.

This Committee would record for the information of its members that it undertakes no responsibility for arrangements made in connection with Local Board elections, and that it is the business of individual members to see that their names are included on the electoral roll of their districts. These rolls when completed are sent to the Chairmen of District Committees, who have consented to correct them as far as possible, this can only be done by some one having an intimate knowledge of changes continually taking place and with the co-operation of the electorate. They have also agreed to arrange for Returning Officers in Cachar when an election is necessary for the convenience of their members.

The raising of the level of Sutorakhall bridge.

A complaint by the Manager of the Ruttonpore Tea Estate, together with correspondence covering several years, was laid on the table, and Mr. E. G. Peters explained to the meeting the various losses sustained by his Company, owing to the failure of the Local Board to raise the level of this bridge.

On the understanding that the proprietors of the Company concerned would be prepared to pay part of the cost of the necessary alteration, the Secretary was instructed to suggest to the Local Government that an enquiry be held into the procedure of the Local Board in dealing with this question.

Preparation of Vaccines for use in the tea districts.

Copies of the following correspondence on the subject of the preparation of vaccines for pneumonia and bacillary dysentery from the strain or strains of the organisms responsible for these diseases in the Assam and Surma Valleys, having been circulated to all members of the General Committee, was laid on the table and ordered to be recorded.

Letter dated 15th March 1924.

From—The HONORARY SECRETARY, British Medical
Association, Assam Branch,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

I beg to enclose the copy of a letter addressed to the Government of Assam on the question of the preparation of vaccines for pneumonia and bacillary dysentery from the strain or strains of organisms responsible for these diseases in the Assam and Surma Valleys. With regard to pneumonia alone the matter is an urgent one—on many estates from 30 to 40 to 50% of the total deaths from all causes being due to this one fatal disease—and judging from results obtained elsewhere by the use of these specific vaccines the incidence of the infection may be reduced and the case-mortality lessened to a very considerable degree. The Council of this Branch of the British Medical Association is of opinion that investigations in connection with this matter should be carried out at the Pasteur Institute, Shillong, which is in close touch with the tea districts. The Council, in urging this on Government, is convinced of the promising nature of the scheme, and asks for the valuable support of your Association in its furtherance.

Letter dated 15th March 1924.

From—The HONORARY SECRETARY, British Medical
Association Assam Branch.

To—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

I have the honour to state that at the Annual General Meeting of the Assam Branch British Medical Association held at Jorhat on the 16th February 1924, it was unanimously resolved that the Government of Assam be approached on the question of the preparation of vaccines for pneumonia and bacillary dysentery from the strain or strains of the organisms responsible for these diseases in the Assam and Surma Valleys. With respect to pneumonia the matter is a particularly pressing one, the disease being the cause from year to year of heavy mortality amongst tea-garden labour and in the province generally. Excellent results have been obtained

elsewhere both in India and Africa from the use of specific vaccines as described, and the Council of this Branch suggest that investigations be carried out and arrangements made for the preparation of the vaccines in the Pasteur Institute, Shillong. The Branch Council trust that the Government of Assam may be pleased to take action in this matter, which they consider of urgent importance, and they offer their hearty co-operation in every way possible.

Letter No. 517-O., dated Calcutta, 28th March, 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECOND SECRETARY, to the Government of Assam.

The Honorary Secretary, British Medical Association, Assam Branch, has forwarded to the General Committee, a copy of the marginally noted letter addressed by his Association to you on the subject of the preparation of vaccines for pneumonia and bacillary dysentery from the strain or strains of the organisms responsible for these diseases in the Assam and Surma Valleys.

Letter dated the 15th March 1924 from the British Medical Association, Assam Branch to the Government of Assam.

2. The General Committee have been much impressed by the position as explained in the letter and in view of the serious loss suffered by the province from these diseases they strongly support the suggestions that investigations should be carried out and arrangements made for the preparation of the vaccines in the Pasteur Institute at Shillong. The Committee trust that it will be possible for Government to accept the proposal, particularly in view of the good results obtained elsewhere as the result of the use of specific vaccine. They will be glad if they may be informed as to the views of the Government of Assam in the matter.

No. 520-O.

Copy forwarded for information to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, with reference to Dr. Forsyth's letter to the Branch dated 15th March, of which he has forwarded a copy to this Association.

Letter dated 16th April 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to your Memo. No. 520-O., dated the 28th ultimo forwarding a copy of letter addressed by your General Committee to the Government of Assam on the subject of the preparation of vaccines for pneumonia and bacillary dysentery from the strain or strains of the organisms responsible for these diseases in the Assam and Surma Valleys I am directed to say that this matter was discussed at the last meeting of the Assam Legislative Council and that the Government of Assam are going into the question at once, and will doubtless inform this Branch in due course what steps they are able to take to carry out suggestions made in Dr. Forsyth's letter.

Indian Income Tax—Assessment of the Value of Rent-Free Quarters and other Perquisites.

The following correspondence from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, together with a copy of their letter addressed to the Commissioner of Income Tax, Bengal, having been circulated, was laid on the table :—

Letter No. 511-O., dated Calcutta, 8th March 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to send you for information copy of a letter which the Committee are addressing to the Commissioner of Income Tax, Bengal, with reference to an arrangement concluded between the Indian Mining Association and himself and the Commissioner of Income Tax of Bihar and Orissa regarding the basis of assessment of the value of rent-free quarters and other perquisites. Perhaps your Committee would wish to draw the attention of the Commissioner of Income Tax, Assam, to the arrangement with a view

to a similar one being adopted in the case of tea garden employees in Assam. Alternately, the General Committee will be glad to address him should you wish it, but it will perhaps strengthen the application if at the same time it can be said that the Bengal authorities have accepted the arrangement as applicable to the case of tea garden employees in the province, and for the present a reply from the Commissioner of Income Tax, Bengal, might first be awaited.

Letter dated Calcutta, 28th March 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER of Income Tax, Bengal.

The attention of the Committee of this Association has been drawn to the arrangement accepted by the Commissioner of Income Tax, Bihar and Orissa and yourself with reference to the assessment of the value of rent-free quarters occupied by colliery employees, and other perquisites. The arrangement is, the Committee are informed, that in future the value of rent-free quarters and other perquisites in the coal fields will be assessed as follows :—

- (1) For an employee occupying a whole bungalow. 7% of his salary
- (2) For an employee occupying a bungalow with one or more employees. $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ of his salary.

Subject to the following ordinary maxima :—

Rs. 100/- a month in the case of (1).

Rs. 50/- a month in the case of (2).

Rs. 125/- a month in the case of General Managers or Agents drawing upwards of 1,500/- a month.

2. The General Committee will be glad if they may be informed whether a similar arrangement will be accepted by you with regard to the assessment of the value of rent-free quarters and other perquisites of tea garden employees in the province.

The Committee noted the contents with interest also that it appeared from the proceedings of a meeting held in Calcutta on April 8th, the Government of Bengal were not prepared to agree to the lower assessment.

Coolie Concession Certificate Forms T-102.

Correspondence on the above subject having been recorded in the Minutes of the last Meeting of the General Committee held on 11th March 1924, the Secretary was instructed to publish the following letters for further information of members :—

Letter dated Calcutta, 28th April 1924.

From—The SECRETARIES, Tea Districts Labour Association,
To—The TRAFFIC MANAGER, Assam-Bengal Railway,
Chittagong.

Coolie Concession Certificate Forms T-102.

Our Goalundo Agent has written us regarding your letter No. BT/20/23, dated the 26th April 1924 and we attach a copy of his letter.

Our letter to the Secretary of the Surma Valley Branch was written under a misapprehension, as we were not aware that the Steamer Companies insisted on the form signed by our Agent. In the circumstances we shall be glad if you will comply with the Goalundo Agent's indent for Form 102.

Copy to Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, for information, together with copy of enclosure.

(Sd.) BEGG, DUNLOP & Co, LTD.,

Secretary,

TEA DISTRICTS LABOUR ASSOCIATION.

Copy of letter No. 1139 of the 27th April 1924, from the Agent, Tea Districts Labour Association, Goalundo, to Messrs. Begg, Dunlop & Co., Ltd., Secretaries, Tea Districts Labour Association.

I beg to enclose herewith copy of a letter dated the 26th instant from the Traffic Manager, A. B. Ry., Chittagong, which will speak for itself.

These certificate forms are essential in obtaining concession fare for our coolies and peons in their up and down journey over A. B. Ry.,

without which the Steamer Companies here do not accept our credit notes for concession fares for coolies, sirdars and peons in their up journey over A. B. Ry. both *via* Chandpur and Gauhati. Each individual ticket in the up journey requires a certificate form signed by me for concession over A. B. Ry., which has to be submitted to the booking office here with the credit note. So also the challan peons, during their down journey have to submit a certificate form signed by the garden managers to the station concerned for getting concession fares. Therefore a good many forms are daily required in order to get concession fares tickets over A. B. and D. S. Rys. in through booking with the Steamer Companies from Goalundo and Gauhati. Please therefore ask the A. B. Ry. to comply with our quarterly requisition for 2,000 certificate forms No. T.-102, without delay.

The Question of bringing the Port of Chittagong under the Government of Assam.

The Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to the above question, which he expected would come up before the Legislative Council of Assam shortly with reference to Provincial revenue.

Timber Concessions to the Surma Valley Saw Mills.

An expression of opinion having been asked for by the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, on the question of further concessions, at the General Meeting of the Branch held on 11th March last, this Committee would record that until more information is available, they strongly protest against any further concessions being made, the result of the last concessions being that no local boxes are available, and the industry is now saddled with duty on imported boxes.

Leases of building sites on Government land in the European quarters of Haflong.

The Committee confirmed the following ~~reply~~ already submitted by the Secretary, to D. O. letter No. 6021 ~~to~~ R., dated 15th

March, from the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, on the above subject :—

Letter dated 16th April 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Cachar.

In reply to your letter No. 6021-30-R., dated the 15th ultimo *re.* leases of building sites in Haflong, I have consulted various members of this Branch of the Association, and there is a general consensus of opinion that it would be a great pity if the sites now occupied by bungalows were lost to the floating hot weather European population. Owing to the difficulty of running the hotel as a paying concern the question appears a difficult one, and might I think be left to the officials of the Assam-Bengal Railway, the property holders in Haflong and the Government to settle, as unless one is interested in Haflong, and knows all the facts of the case, an expression of opinion is not of much value. If the proposed school would adversely affect Haflong as a place where planters can go to for a change, everyone consulted agrees that it should not be allowed to monopolise all the best sites—especially as there are others suitable for the purpose.

The Imperial Bank of India (Amendment) Bill.

Letter No. 2806-11-F., dated 2nd May 1924, from the Government of Assam, asking for an expression of opinion on the proposed amendment to the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, having been circulated, was laid on the table.

The Committee had no expression of opinion to offer.

Proposal to start an Empire Planters' Club in London.

The Committee had before them the following letter dated 6th May 1924, from the General Secretary, Behar Planters' Association, on the above subject :—

Dated Motihari, Chumparan, 6th May 1924.

From—The GENERAL SECRETARY, Behar Planters' Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

A proposal has been put forward to start an Empire Planters' Club in London. The benefit of such a Club to retired Planters,

and those at home on leave is evident, and if supported, as it should be, a large membership must ensue, thus minimizing subscriptions and rates.

I write to enquire whether your Association would be prepared to approach Managers of gardens working under your aegis, with a view to finding out what support may be expected? If you are not prepared to do this, will you be good enough to send me a list of the gardens in your Association with the names and addresses of Managers?

Yearly subscriptions will probably be approximately :—

Town ...	...	...	4 to 5 Guineas.
Country	...	...	2 to 4 Guineas.
Foreign	...	...	1 Guinea.

While entrance fee will be kept as low as possible.

I am circulating to all Estate Managers, Planting Companies, and Associations in the Empire, as no detailed scheme can be put forward until the measure of support to be anticipated is obtained.

I personally have 15 years experience of a planter's life in Behar, and have been Secretary of the Darjeeling Gymkhana Club for many years, which Club I have recently left to take up the General Secretaryship of Behar Planters' Association, Ltd.

The favour of an early reply is requested, to enable me, if support is forthcoming, to draw up a detailed scheme for consideration.

They record that the idea seemed a good one—provided the Club was run for the benefit of Planters home on leave and accommodation reserved for that purpose.

**The question of the advisability of planters representatives
on the Council staying with Officials when attending
meetings of the Council in Shillong.**

Discussion was invited on the above subject :—The Committee record their opinion that when Government Officials were good enough to ask representatives of the Planting Community to stay with them,

whether they accepted or not, should be entirely left to the individual member, being quite assured that such hospitality was in no way likely to influence the way in which their representatives recorded their votes.

Advisory Committee of the Auxiliary Force.

The Committee having been asked to nominate a member in place of Col. R. St. J. Hickman, C.I.E., who has left the district, it was unanimously agreed to ask Major H. B. Fox, C.I.E., to take his place.

District Committees.

Minutes of meetings of the following District Committees, having been circulated to all members of General Committee, were ordered to be recorded :—

Happy Valley District Committee Meeting held on 24th
March 1924.

Balisera Valley District Committee Meeting held on 19th
April 1924.

Lungla-Juri-Doloi and North of Surma held on 30th
April 1924.

With reference to the resolution passed by the Lungla-Juri-Doloi and North of Surma District Committee, protesting against the methods adopted by the Manager of Dilderpore Tea Estate, *re* local recruiting, the Secretary was instructed to find out who were the Proprietors or Managing Agents of this garden, and to suggest they might sign the Labour Rules.

Cinematograph.

Mr. D. Patterson called the attention of the meeting to the unsuitable nature of some films recently shown in the district to illiterate audiences. The Secretary was directed to suggest to the Local Government that some form of censorship should be arranged.

Stoppage of the Surma Mail train at Latu Station.

Letter No. 4404-05 B/Rys., dated 19th July 1923.

From—The SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Public Works Department,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to forward herewith copy of a question asked by Haji Mahammad Abdul Ahad Chaudhuri, M.L.C., at the March 1923 session of the Assam Legislative Council urging the stoppage of the Assam Mail train at Latu station, and to say that the Government of Assam will be glad to have the views of your Association on the proposal

Question.

4. Will the Government be pleased to recommend the Railway Board to make arrangements for the stoppage of the Assam Mail at Latu.

Reply.

In order to speed up the through mail and make the necessary connections it was essential to give up stops at minor station such as Latu but Government will invite the views of the Railway authorities and the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association on the proposal.

Dated Binnakandi, the 26th July 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY to the Government of Assam in the Public Works Department.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 4404-05 B/Rys., dated the 19th instant together with a copy of a question asked by Haji Mahammad Abdul Ahad Chaudhuri, M.L.C., at the March session of the Assam Legislative Council, urging the stoppage of the Assam Mail train at Latu station.

My Association consider that any such stoppage would be a great mistake, and lead to further requests for stoppage of the mail train at other minor stations all down the line.

Rainfall Figures.

Dated Binnakandi, the 11th August 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY to the Government of India, Revenue & Agriculture Department, Simla,

I am directed to call your attention to the inconvenience caused in the tea districts by the publication of the rainfall figures from May 1st, instead of January 1st, in the Calcutta newspapers; these figures being supplied from Simla it is understood. All rainfall figures in this province are registered from January 1st, and I have to suggest that it would be much more satisfactory for comparative purposes, if the figures given in the Calcutta newspapers were also registered from that date reverting to previous custom.

My Committee will be glad to know if this can be conveniently arranged.

Letter No. 8107-S., dated 27th August 1923.

From—The DIRECTOR GENERAL of Observatories, India Meteorological Department,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to your letter of the 11th August 1923 addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue & Agricultural Department, I have the honour to inform you that the rainfall totals appearing in the Calcutta papers are presumably extracted from the Calcutta Daily Weather Reports. The running total from 1st January to date of publication given in these reports was replaced with the concurrence of the Government of Bengal by two seasonal totals—one from May to November and the other from December to April, as these corresponded with the monsoon and non-monsoon

seasons. This division of the year into two seasons is useful and preferred for agricultural interests in the provinces of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, and it is extremely doubtful whether they would welcome a reversion to the old system of a running total for the whole year which you desire. With the figures of the present system it is a simple matter for anyone wishing to obtain the totals from January 1st to add to the published figures the totals from 1st January to 30th April.

Price of Petrol.

Letter dated 1st September 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

With reference to the question of the price of petrol, which representatives of this Branch, are taking up in the Assam Legislative Council, I am directed to ask you, if you will be good enough to obtain the following information if this is available in Calcutta :—

- (1) Cost of carriage per ton of petrol between Calcutta and London.
- (2) Price of petrol in bond in London.

Letter No. 1124, dated 18th September 1923.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 1st September with two enquiries in connection with the above subject.

2. I enclose for your information an extract from a letter dated 13th September from the Association to the Indian Tea Association, London, and copy of a letter dated 18th September to the Calcutta Liners Conference.

You will be advised of the replies received from these two sources.

*Extract from letter dated 13th September 1923, to the Secretary,
Indian Tea Association, London.*

The Committee have received an enquiry from the Surma Valley Branch in connection with the high price of petrol in the Tea districts of Assam. The points on which the Surma Valley Branch have asked information, are :—

(1) Cost of carriage per ton of petrol between Calcutta and London,

(2) Price of petrol in bond in London.

The Committee are approaching the Calcutta Liners Conference for information as to the first point and I am to ask whether you could send me information on the second point which I could hand on to the Surma Valley Branch.

*Copy of letter dated 18th September from the Assistant Secretary,
Indian Tea Association, to the Secretary, Calcutta
Liners Conference.*

The Association have been asked by the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, for information on certain points bearing on the current price of petrol at home and in Assam.

2. One of the questions asked by the Surma Valley Branch is as to the cost of carriage per ton of petrol between Calcutta and London. Perhaps your Committee might be in a position to furnish figures of this cost which could be passed on by me to the Surma Valley Branch.

Letter No. 1192-O., dated 2nd October 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to my letter of 18th September explaining the action the Committee were taking in connection with your two queries regarding petrol, I am directed to inform you that a reply has been received from the Calcutta Liners Conference to the query passed on to them. A copy of this letter from the Conference is attached for your information. With reference to this reply the

Committee are of opinion that as petrol is rarely if ever shipped home from Calcutta, it would be very unlikely that a freight quotation could be obtained at all.

Letter No. 61-383 L.C., dated 20th September 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Calcutta Liners Conference, Calcutta,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

I am in receipt of your letter No. 1123-O., dated 18th September and in reply I am directed to say that the Conference have no knowledge of the rates of freight per ton of petrol between Calcutta and London. They suggest that quotations might be obtained from a freight broker.

Letter No. 457-O., dated 20th March 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of 18th March reading—

“Much obliged if you will advise me present price of petrol in Calcutta information required for Assam Council meeting next week.”

In reply I have to inform you that the present price of petrol in Calcutta is Rs. 1-9-6 per gallon.

Letter No. 472-O., dated 22nd March 1924,

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

In continuation of my letter No. 457-O., dated the 20th March, I beg to inform you that the price of petrol here has been increased with effect from to-day to Rs. 1-11-0 per gallon.

Local Representation on the Tea Districts Labour Association.

Letter dated 3rd October 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARIES, Tea Districts Labour Association.

I am directed by the General Committee of this Branch of the Association, to forward for your information, the following extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of this Branch of the Association, held in Silchar on the 24th September, dealing with the above subject :—

“Question of Local Representation on the Tea Districts Labour Association”.

“Various complaints having been received as to nomination and election of representatives of the Surma Valley on the Tea Districts Labour Association, indicating that considerable confusion existed, the Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee consider representation of the Surma Valley on the Tea Districts Labour Association should be made through the General Committee of the Branch, who, at present have no direct representation on this body, and to bring this matter to the notice of the Secretaries of the Tea Districts Labour Association, also to protest against the arrangements made for the recent tour of the Rajputna Party under Captain Graham, in so far as no direct information was sent to the Secretary, of the Branch by the Secretaries, Tea Districts Labour Association—the first intimation received being a wire from the Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, asking for information regarding this party.”

Letter dated 10th October 1923.

From—The SECRETARIES, Tea Districts Labour Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

We have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 3rd instant and in reply have to say that the resolution of the General

Committee of the Surma Valley Branch will be placed before the General Committee of this Association to be held on 2nd November.

Letter dated 6th November 1923.

From—The SECRETARIES, Tea Districts Labour Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

In continuation of our letter of the 10th ultimo we have to say that the resolution was placed before the Meeting of the General Committee of this Association on the 2nd instant and the following extract of the Minute is sent for your information :—

“ After some discussion, in the course of which it was pointed out that the intention of the present system was representatives should be elected by individual Managers, and that it was open to the Branch to suggest to their Members the names of suitable candidates, it was decided that this Meeting was not in favour of any change in the present method and that the Chairman of the Surma Valley Branch be advised accordingly.”

Letter dated the 6th December 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

Under instructions from the General Committee of this Branch of the Association I am to ask you to be good enough to bring to the notice of your Committee the extract from the Minutes of the last Meeting of the General Committee, Surma Valley Branch, referring to representation on the Tea Districts Labour Association, a copy of which is attached for ready reference.

I am further directed to say that this question of representation was brought up originally on the strength of various enquiries and complaints from members of the Branch as to how elections to the Tea Districts Labour Association were made, with which my Committee having no direct knowledge of the working of this body, were

unable to deal. They also feel that as nominated representatives of the agency houses, and elected representatives of the various districts they serve on the General Committee, they should be directly represented on the General Committee of the Tea Districts Labour Association, who should also, in the event of wishing to arrange tours of Local Agents, correspond directly with the Secretary of the Branch, giving him sufficient warning of proposed tours, in order that suitable arrangements may be made. In the case of Captain Graham's tour, the first intimation, the Secretary received of this, was a wire from the Assam Branch, asking for information as to the party.

My Committee direct me to ask the General Committee, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, for their support in taking up this matter with the Tea Districts Labour Association, and trust they will be able to recommend an alteration of the rules allowing representatives of the Surma Valley to be nominated by the General Committee of the Branch to whom they would be responsible.

As matters stand at present, without any wish to interfere with arrangements made by the Tea Districts Labour Association, my Committee consider that any business connected with that Association in the Valley would be better done if conducted entirely through the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association than through elected individuals, and avoid a three-cornered correspondence which leads to confusion.

Letter dated 31st January 1924.

From—The SECRETARIES, Tea Districts Labour Association,

To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

In continuation of our letter dated the 5th January regarding the communication from the Surma Valley Branch on the subject of the system of election to the Committee of this Association, have been directed to send you a copy of the Minute recorded in this connection at the recent meeting of the Executive Committee :—

“The correspondence with the Indian Tea Association regarding the complaint of the Surma Valley Branch in connection with the method of election to the General Committee was discussed. The Committee saw no reason to make any

change, in view of the fact that the Articles of Association were framed intentionally to give individual Managers a voice in the conduct of the affairs of the Association and the suggestion of the Surma Valley Branch that the Branch itself should nominate Members to the Committee of the Tea Districts Labour Association would vitiate the object”.

We are to add that it is open to the Surma Valley Branch to suggest to their members the names of candidates considered suitable for election.

Stamping of Act XIII Agreements.

Dated Shillong, the 3rd October 1923.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,
To—The SUPERINTENDENT of Stamps.

I am directed to refer to Mr. Hezlett's Memo. No. 7-21-S., dated the 16th April 1923, with which he forwarded a copy of the instructions issued by him to the Secretaries of the Assam Valley and Surma Valley Branches of the Indian Tea Association on the subject of the stamping of Act XIII agreements. It has been decided by the Governor in Council that the instructions requiring Inspectors of Labourers to impound all agreements found during their inspections to be unstamped or inadequately stamped should be cancelled and orders to that effect have already been issued by you. Such documents should be impounded only when produced in court. If a register containing several agreements unstamped or inadequately stamped is produced in court the presiding officer will be entitled to impound not only the particular agreement which has been produced in evidence but all such agreements in the register.

2. The Governor in Council understands that a question has been raised as to whether agreements entered in a register maintained by a tea estate have to be stamped under the law. A written agreement or memorandum of agreement to labour is liable to stamp duty. It would depend on the facts of each case whether a particular entry in a register constitutes such an agreement or memorandum of agreement. If the entry merely purports to record the payment of a certain sum to a certain man whether as an advance or not and

makes no mention of labour or any similar consideration this would not amount to a memorandum of an agreement to labour even if it had the signature or the thumb impression of the person to whom the payment was made. If on the other hand the entry indicates that the person receiving the payment has agreed to work in return for the sum received this would amount to a memorandum of an agreement and would require to be stamped.

Recruiting in the Madras Presidency.

No. 1212-O., dated Calcutta, the 8th October 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to send for your information copies of the margi-

1. Letter No. 1150-O., dated 21st September to the Chairman Assam Labour Board.

2. Letter No. 1155-O., dated 24th September to the Government of Assam, Finance Department.

nally noted letters which the Committee have addressed to the Chairman, Assam Labour Board and to the Government of Assam, Finance Department, on the subject of the throwing open of the whole of the Madras Presidency to the recruitment

of labour for tea gardens in Assam.

No. 1150-O., dated Calcutta, the 21st September 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The CHAIRMAN, Assam Labour Board.

In acknowledging receipt of your letter to the Chairman No 1085, dated 14th September, forwarding a copy of the orders recently gazetted by the Government of Madras, the General Committee desire to call your attention to the following point :—

Notification No. 1 under Section 3 of the Act is so worded as to permit of assistance being given to licensed garden sirdars in carrying out their function as recruiters. It is very desirable that the nature and extent of the assistance which may be given without infringing the Act should be clearly stated, preferably in a set of rules having the force of law issued by the Madras Government under Section 163.

During the past season, a number of European garden Managers and Assistants visited the recruiting areas in Madras Presidency, and it is inevitable that in view of the generous extension of the recruiting areas conceded by the Madras Government a larger number of employers and assistants will in the coming season visit Madras partly to explore, partly to do propaganda work and partly to supervise the working of their sirdars.

The General Committee are strongly of opinion that, while visits which are undertaken purely in quest of knowledge or for purposes of simple propaganda cannot be interfered with without infringing the liberty of the subject, some restriction should be placed on the operations of those who go for the purpose of supervising and assisting their sirdars. They therefore request you to take this matter up with the Madras Government at your earliest convenience in order that a set of rules may be published which will make clear what actions on the part of employers or their assistants in the recruiting districts constitute improper conduct or offences under Act VI.

The Committee would suggest for your consideration the advisability of making it, by rule under Section 163, illegal for any member of the superior staff of a tea garden or company to take any part in supervising or assisting the work of his sirdars unless he holds a permit issued by the Assam Labour Board. Such permit should be liable to cancellation in the event of any infringement of the conditions under which it is granted, and the holder should be in addition liable to prosecution under Section 164 of Act VI for any act which is described by the proposed rules as an offence under the Act.

The Committee will be glad to hear from you in due course what proposals you decide to submit to the Madras Government. It might expedite matters if you personally saw the Madras Government and explained the necessity for the early publication of the suggested rules.

The Committee desire to take this opportunity of conveying to you an expression of the thanks of the industry for the work which you have done in connection with these negotiations and for the assistance which you have given throughout the whole course of these.

No. 1155-O., dated Calcutta, the 24th September 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Finance Department.

Immigration.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5715—17½ F.M., dated the 13th September forwarding for information copy of a letter dated 5th idem, together with copies of the enclosures, from the Government of Madras on the subject of the throwing open of the whole of the Madras Presidency to the recruitment of labour for tea gardens in Assam. The Committee have noted the terms of the notifications with great interest, and they are bringing these to the notice of all members of the Association.

2. I am directed by the Committee to take this opportunity of conveying to the Government of Assam an expression of the thanks of the tea industry for the assistance Government have given to the industry throughout the negotiations leading up to the issue of the notifications by the Government of Madras. The support and assistance given by the Government of Assam in this way have been very greatly appreciated.

Establishment of toll bar on Juri bridge.

Dated Binnakandi, the 9th August 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The CHAIRMAN, Local Board, Karimganj.

I am directed by the General Committee of this Branch of the Association to ask you to be good enough to let me know the position with reference to a new bridge over the Juri river, which though now the public are crossing free of charge, is reported to have been leased for a period of years with the object of collecting tolls. My object in asking for this information is that the matter has been brought to the notice of my Committee, who are unaware of the circumstances under which the bridge was built, and require fuller information on the subject before they can consider the question of tolls.

Letter No. 1044, dated Karimganj, the 21st August 1923.

From—The CHAIRMAN, Local Board, Karimganj,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to your letter dated the 9th August 1923, regarding the establishment of toll bar on the Juri bridge, I have the honour to say that the construction of the bridge was found necessary to connect the link of communication between Karimganj and South Sylhet Sub-divisions. In this connection, a reference is invited to your letter dated the 5th May 1920 to the address of the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, forwarding a scheme of works in this Valley for the improvement of communication.

The Government was pleased to sanction grants towards the construction of permanent bridges over the Juri and the Poamara. The work of the former has been finished and that of the latter is in progress. There was a ferry at the place where the Juri bridge has been erected and the Board has to lose an annual income of about Rs. 500, it being stopped there. According to the Assam Local Self-Government Act, the Board is empowered to levy tolls on bridges costing more than ten thousand rupees each and up to the cost of construction met out of the local fund. Necessary permission from the Government has duly been obtained.

Dated Binnakandi, the 4th October 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

The question of levying tolls on the new Juri bridge having been brought to their notice by one of their District Committees, I am directed to forward the following extract from the minutes of a meeting of the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association held on September 24th, which I shall be obliged if you will bring to the notice of the proper authorities.

The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the Lungla-Juri-Doloi District Committee held on 26th July 1923 :—

Resolution No. 4.—The assistance of the General Committee is asked in the matter of the Juri Bridge which was opened free to the public some nine months ago, but has recently been sold for Rs. 2,200 for a period of three years. No tolls have so far been levied, but it feared that they very soon will be. A big Indian petition is being sent in and it is thought that a letter from the General Committee to the Government of Assam will carry weight.

*Resolution passed at a Meeting held on 28th August :—*With reference to item No. 4 in the minutes of last Meeting held on 26th July, tolls have been levied for crossing the Juri River at the usual ghat rates since the 1st August. A breach of peace nearly occurred on that day owing to the levying of tolls. When the Karimganj Local Board decided to put the bridge up for auction, there was no European representing the Juri Valley on the Board, on the 18th of July the bridge was auctioned and it was purchased by a Karimganj resident. Information of the auction was circulated a short time previously by the Chairman of the Karimganj Local Board. It may be mentioned that one side of the bridge is in the Maulvi Bazar Sub-division, South Sylhet. Local feeling against the tolls is very bitter. This levying of tolls we consider a bad precedent and we may mention that a petition against it signed by 3,000 Indians is being submitted to Government.

Correspondence on the subject of the toll bar on the Juri Bridge, having been previously circulated, Mr. F. W. Wilson, as representing the Juri Valley was asked to join in the discussion which followed. The Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee have no objection to the principle of collecting tolls, but consider the money so collected should go to the Local Board for the further improvement of communications, and that such bridges should not be let to a contractor as

money making concerns without very careful consideration. From figures supplied by Mr. Wilson it appeared the tariff would fall very heavily on neighbouring gardens to the advantage of the lessee, it was therefore suggested the Local Government might institute an enquiry as to the rates of toll, probable receipts, etc."

From the above it will be noted my Committee have no objection to raise to the levying of tolls, but consider an enquiry should be held as to the sale of the rights to collect them? From figures at their disposal it appears that in the ordinary routine of business one neighbouring garden and the Medical Officer of the district will pay Rs. 1,500 out of the Rs. 2,200 for which, it is stated, the Bridge is sold for three years, indicating that the lessee will make a large fortune, which my Committee would prefer to see devoted to the further improvement of communications.

Letter No. 5632-E., dated Shillong, the 27th October 1923.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to refer to your letter dated 4th October 1923, on the subject of the establishment by the Karimganj Local Board of a toll bar on the Juri Bridge. The Government of Assam note with satisfaction that the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association do not raise any objection to the levying of tolls. The Government will enquire about the rates charged and the terms of the auction settlement.

Dated Binnakandi, the 22nd November 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 5632-E., dated the 27th ultimo, on the subject of the establishment of a toll

bar on the Juri Bridge, and to say my Committee will be glad to hear the result of the Government enquiry about the rates charged and the terms on the auction settlement.

Labour Rules Agreement.

No. 1373-O., dated Calcutta, the 15th November 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

The Labour Rules Agreement expired on 15th October last but the fact it did so appears to have been overlooked. The General Committee take it that it is the desire of the Branches that the agreement should be renewed, and if so it might be better, instead of continuing it for only three years, to provide that it should continue indefinitely subject to termination by any signatory on giving, say, six calendar months' notice : they will be glad to learn the views of your Committee on this suggestion and also whether it is proposed that any alterations should be made in the wording of the agreement. It would save a good deal of time in having the fresh agreements signed if the wording ; were kept in its present form. I am meantime having the agreement reprinted and perhaps you can favour me with a reply at an early date.

Dated Binnakaudi, 7th December 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

In reply to your letter No. 1373-O., dated the 15th ultimo, I am directed to say that my Committee are entirely in agreement with the suggestions made in it with reference to signature of Labour Rules for an indefinite period.

Indian Boilers Act, 1923.

The 10th December 1923.

No. 2937-R.—In exercise of the power conferred by section 29 of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923 (Act V of 1923), the Governor in Council is pleased to make following rules :—

Rules under section 29 of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923 (V of 1923).

I.—PRELIMINARY.

Definitions. 1. In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) “the Act” means the Indian Boilers Act, 1923 (V of 1923);

(b) “section” means a section of the said Act;

(c) “regulation” means a regulation framed by the Government of India under section 28 of the said Act.

2. A Boiler Commission shall be appointed to consist of the Director of Industries, Bengal, and not less than five other Commissioners to be appointed by the Government of Bengal from time to time. The Director of Industries, Bengal, shall be *ex-officio* the President of the Commission, and the Chief Inspector shall be *ex-officio* the Secretary and a Member of the Commission.

3. The Commission shall meet periodically (at least once a month) for the transaction of business.

4. At least four clear days’ notice of all meetings shall be given to each member.

The notice shall state the business to be transacted at the meeting, and no business other than that so stated shall be transacted, except with the consent of the majority of the members present.

5. At every meeting of the Commission, three members shall form a quorum.

6. Every meeting shall be presided over by the President of the Commission or, in his absence, by a member chosen by the members present at the meeting.

7. It shall be the duty of the Commissioners at their meetings—

- (1) to consider the business stated in the notice of the meeting and any other business that the members present may consent to consider in accordance with rule 4,
- (2) to examine the diaries of the Inspectors, and pass such orders thereon as may seem necessary,
- (3) to keep a record of their proceedings in such form as may seem advisable and to submit a copy of the same to the local Government,
- (4) to submit an annual budget to the local Government, showing the estimated receipts and disbursements of the Commission for the ensuing year,
- (5) to submit an Annual Report to the local Government reviewing the work done by the Boiler Commission during the calendar year,
- (6) to prescribe the registers and accounts which are to be kept up by the Secretary and the office,
- (7) to check the statement of receipts of inspection-fees, comparing it with the amount appropriated for inspections completed, *plus* the balance for outstanding inspections which is prepared by the Chief Inspector from the diaries of the Inspectors,
- (8) to compare the statement of collections with the cash-book and the cash-book with the bank book, and
- (9) to pass or authorize the President to pass such orders as they or he may think fit for determining the mode of disposal of fees, costs and penalties levied under this Act.

8. The Commissioners shall from time to time prepare and submit, for the sanction of the local Government, a schedule of the establishment and salaries they consider necessary for carrying out the purposes of the Act.

9. After the sanction of the local Government to such schedule the Commissioners shall have the power to appoint clerks, etc., and

shall also have the power to select Inspectors for appointment under section 5 of the Act. They shall also have power to suspend or remove such officers as are appointed by them.

10. The Chief Inspector shall submit to the Commission at each meeting the Inspector's reports on the boilers inspected in the form of a diary which shall be recorded in the office.

11. (1) Fees for inspection shall be calculated on the basis of boiler rating, as prescribed in Part II, Chapter I, Regulation 158 of the regulations. The following fees are prescribed :—

Registration fees.—Fees for registration and first inspection of boilers are prescribed in section 159 of the regulations.

Fees for the issue of renewed certificates of boilers shall be charged according to the following scale :—

	Rs.
For boiler rating not exceeding 100 square feet ...	20
For boiler rating exceeding 100 square feet but not exceeding 300 square feet ...	25
For boiler rating exceeding 300 square feet but not exceeding 500 square feet ...	30
For boiler rating exceeding 500 square feet but not exceeding 700 square feet ...	35
For boiler rating exceeding 700 square feet but not exceeding 900 square feet ...	40
For boiler rating exceeding 900 square feet but not exceeding 1,100 square feet ...	45
For boiler rating exceeding 1,100 ...	50

Provided that when any owner is willing to accept a renewed certificate for less than twelve months in order to approximate the date of annual inspection to the date on which other boilers in the locality are inspected, a certificate for such period less than twelve months as may be necessary for such approximation of dates may be granted at a reduced fee to be calculated at one-twelfth of the ordinary fee for each full month a portion of a month not being reckoned.

(2) *Second fee in default.*—A second fee will be leviable for re-inspection in any case where the inspection of a boiler is begun

but owing to the fault or neglect of the owner or person in charge, is not completed within a period of six months from the date of commencement of inspection.

(3) Duplicate certificates for *bond fide* purposes may be issued to boiler owners under the orders of the Chief Inspector on receipt of a fee of Rs. 3 per copy.

(4) An additional fee of Rs. 50 shall be charged for the inspection of a boiler on a Sunday, X'mas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday and the King's Brithday. Half of the additional fee so charged shall be paid to the Inspector, the other half shall be credited to the "Steam Boiler Inspection Fund."

(5) A fee of Rs. 20 may be charged for the examination of drawings or tracings of boilers or steam pipes.

(6) In addition to the above fees an Inspector's travelling expenses shall be realized from owners whose boilers are not ready for inspection on the first visit made on their application, for every additional visit paid by the Inspector for the completion of the inspection.

(7) The Inspector's travelling expenses may also be charged for boilers in isolated areas in addition to the fees prescribed in this rule.

(8) For formula for calculating boiler rating (see Regulation No. 157).

12. *Fee to cover inspection and tests.*—A fee paid for the inspection of a boiler shall cover thorough inspection, hydraulic test and steam test where such are necessary, subject to the provisions of section 14 (2).

II.—DUTIES OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR.

13. The Chief Inspector is vested with all the powers of an Inspector under the Act. His main duty, however, consists in supervising and controlling the work of the Inspectors, and he should only actually inspect or examine boilers in exceptional cases, or where he considers that the work of an Inspector requires a personal check.

Specific duties.

14. The Chief Inspector shall—

- (a) personally check the registration and measurements of all newly registered boilers, for the initial working pressure and enter under his own signature all orders required by section 7,
- (b) enter under his own signature any subsequent entries required in the registration book,
- (c) obtain the registration book of boiler which has been registered in another province and where the subsequent transfer of such boiler to this province is reported under clause (b) of section 6,
- (d) fix the area under the control of each Inspector,
- (e) approve the programme of inspections of all Inspectors subordinate to him with due regard to the convenience of owners generally,
- (f) examine and countersign the Inspectors' memorandum of inspection book of each boiler after each inspection,
- (g) examine and pass orders on the diaries and returns of Inspectors,
- (h) pass orders in all cases in which an Inspector proposes to increase or reduce the pressure allowed for any boiler under proviso (a) (ii) of section 8 (5) or to revoke, cancel or refuse to renew the certificate of a boiler under section 11, or to order important repairs, structural alterations, or renewals in a boiler under section 8,
- (i) pass orders in all cases in which it is reported that after due notice the boiler has not been properly prepared for inspection,
- (j) decide all appeals against the order of an Inspector under section 13,
- (k) sanction prosecutions under the Act,
- (l) enquire into serious accidents to boilers.

15. It shall be the duty of the Chief Inspector to advise owners as regards the maintenance, working and cleaning of boilers ; he shall issue a set of

Instructions to owners.

instructions for this purpose. These instructions shall be hung up in each boiler house.

16. The Chief Inspector shall keep in
Registers to be kept. his office—

- (a) a register in Form A to these rules of all boilers registered in the province, or the registry of which has been transferred from another province,
- (b) the registration book and memorandum of inspection book of all boilers borne on his register,
- (c) a register of appeals,
- (d) a register of accidents, and
- (e) a register of registration and inspection-fees received.

17. The Chief Inspector shall be the controlling or counter-
Control of bills. signing authority in respect of all contin-
gent bills and of travelling allowance bills
of officers subordinate to him.

18. The Chief Inspector shall be the head of the office of the Boiler Commission, and shall be responsible for the good order and management of the office. He shall see that all notices are duly served, and that all fees are duly brought to account and paid into the bank. He shall himself verify the balance at credit shown in the accounts of the office of the Director of Industries with the balance in the bank. He shall refer all matters of importance for the orders of the President.

19. When a certificate is required for a boiler application shall be made to the Chief Inspector at the office of the Boiler Commission by the owner or agent in Form B, No. 1 appended to these rules giving at least 14 days' notice of the date on which the boiler will be ready for inspection, and the fee prescribed under rule 11 (1) for inspection shall be paid, with the application, to the office of the Director of Industries, Bengal, and the Chief Inspector on receipt of such application with the receipt by the cashier of the office of the Director of Industries, Bengal, showing that the fee for inspection and the extra fee, if any, chargeable for inspection on a Sunday or other holidays as laid down in rule 11 (4) have been paid, will arrange for the inspection to take place on the date notified, if possible; but should that date not prove suitable, he shall as soon

as possible appoint another date and inform the owner or agent accordingly.

III.—DUTIES OF INSPECTORS.

20. Inspectors shall be directly subordinate to and under the control of the Chief Inspector; they should ordinarily be appointed to take charge of the specific areas.

21. The main duties of the Inspectors are the inspection and examination of boilers and steam pipes. Inspections shall be carried out in accordance with the regulations.

22. There shall be two kinds of inspection of boilers :—

(a) When the certificate granted under this Act is about to expire or, when this has been revoked or suspended under section 11 and the owner desires that it shall be renewed, a thorough examination inside and outside, shall be made by one of the Inspectors in person, for which purpose the boilers must be prepared as required by section 150 of the regulations.

(b) An ordinary inspection may be made by an Inspector at any time for the purpose of ascertaining whether a certificate should be revoked or suspended under section 11.

23. In addition to the inspection and examination of boilers, it shall be the duty of Inspectors to search for unregistered or uncertificated boilers within their areas, and to see that certificated boilers are worked in accordance with the terms of their certificates.

24. At the time of inspection, Inspectors shall advise the owner and the person in charge of the boiler on the management and upkeep of the boiler with special reference to the amount of cleaning required in view of the quality of water used.

Specific duties.

25. Inspectors shall—

(a) prepare a programme of inspections with regard to the convenience of owners generally and submit it to the Chief Inspector for approval at such periods as he

may fix, at least 14 days before the first date stated in the programme ;

N.B.—Inspection of boilers in seasonal factories should ordinarily be fixed immediately after the date when work in the factory ceases and in all cases during the off season.

- (b) maintain a memorandum of inspection book for each boiler under their charge and submit it to the Chief Inspector for examination and countersignature after each inspection ;
- (c) keep a diary for monthly submission to the Chief Inspector, showing places visited, boilers registered or inspected, variations from the programme, and any other important particulars ;
- (d) receive applications for registration or inspection under section 7 or 8, proposals for repairs, alterations or renewals under sections 12 and 13, reports of accidents under section 18 ;
- (e) enquire into accidents to boilers or steampipes and report to the Chief Inspector ;
- (f) report to the Chief Inspector cases of unreported accidents discovered at the time of inspection ;
- (g) submit for the orders of the Chief Inspector —
 - (i) the memorandum of inspection books of all boilers proposed for registration under section 7 ;
 - (ii) proposals for increasing or decreasing the pressure of a boiler after inspection under proviso (a) (ii) to section 8 (5) ;
 - (iii) proposals for necessary repairs, structural alterations or renewals to a boiler after inspection under Section 8 or 12 ;
 - (iv) proposals for revoking, cancelling or refusing to renew a certificate under section 8 or 11 ;
 - (v) report when boilers have not been properly prepared for inspection under section 14 ;
 - (vi) proposals for prosecutions under the Act.

26. When an inspection under the Act is completed, the Inspector making it shall prepare a declaration in Form No. B 2 appended to these rules in column 8 of which the limit of the working pressure, in pounds per square inch, shall be clearly noted.

GENERAL.

27. Upon receipt of the declaration in the office, a certificate shall be prepared in the Form VI prescribed by regulations. Such certificate shall be signed by the Inspector and the Chief Inspector and shall be delivered to the owners, manager or agent of the steam boiler inspected.

The time for inspection of boiler shall be between sun rise and sun set.

ACCIDENTS.

28. On receipt of a report of an accident to a boiler or steam-pipe under section 18, the Inspector shall, with the least possible delay, proceed to the place to investigate the accident. If the report is received by the Chief Inspector, he shall forward it at once to the Inspector, within whose jurisdiction the accident has occurred, for necessary action.

29. The Inspector at his enquiry shall make a careful examination of the damaged parts, and shall, take such measurements and make such sketches for the purpose of his report, as he may deem necessary. He shall enquire into the circumstances attending the accident and note the time of its occurrence, its nature and extent, the injury caused to persons and the damage done to property. The report should be in the style of the Reports of Preliminary Enquiries under the British Boiler Explosion Acts, 1882 and 1890.

30. Inspectors are authorized to take the written statements of witnesses and all persons immediately concerned with the accident. In order to comply with the provisions of section 18 (2) the Inspector shall present to the owner or person in charge of the boiler a series of written questions on all points that are material to the enquiry.

31. The Inspector shall decide whether the use of the boiler can be permitted at the same or at a lower pressure without repairs or pending the

completion of any repairs or alterations that he may order. In no case should he issue a provisional order or renewal certificate, until his orders have been carried out.

32. The report shall be sent without delay to the Chief Inspector; if he considers that the investigation has been sufficient, he will record the facts in his register of accidents, and enter a brief account of the accident in the registration book, a copy shall be made in the memorandum of inspection book. If, however, the accident is of a serious nature and in all cases in which an explosion has occurred, the Chief Inspector shall, after receipt of the Inspector's report, proceed to investigate the accident personally or report to the Boiler Commission to enquire into the accident. Reports of such enquiries shall be recorded as indicated above.

33. A brief account of all accidents and their causes shall be included in the annual report.

34. If in the course of an inspection or at any other time, the Inspector discovers damage which comes within the definition of an accident, but which has not been reported, he shall report the facts at once to the Chief Inspector for action under section 24 (d).

APPEALS.

35. Every petition of appeal shall be made in writing either in English or in the vernacular.

36. An appeal may be presented either personally or by registered post to the Chief Inspector.

37. The petition of appeal shall be accompanied by the original order, notice or report appealed against, or by a certified copy thereof, or where no such order, notice or report has been made in writing, by a clear statement of the facts appealed against, the grounds of appeal and the referring section of the Act.

38. On receipt of an appeal, the Chief Inspector shall, if the appeal is to be heard by himself, at once fix a date for hearing the appeal; and if

it is to be heard by the appellate authority, obtain a date for the hearing of the appeal from the President of that authority. No delay shall be made in deciding appeals, as the stoppage of a boiler is likely to put the owner thereof to great inconvenience. The decision should ordinarily be given within 10 days from the receipt of the petition of appeal.

39. When the date for hearing has been fixed, the Chief
Inspector shall at once issue a notice to the
Procedure before hearing. appellant stating the date for hearing and
informing him that if he wishes to be heard in support of the appeal
or to produce evidence, he must be present either in person or by
authorized agent with his evidence on the date fixed. The notice
shall be sent to such address as shall be entered in the petition of
appeal.

40. In all appeals the Chief Inspector shall decide whether the
presence of the Inspector is necessary, and
Presence of Inspector. shall issue orders accordingly.

41. The appellate authority shall have power to secure the
attendance of witnesses and to make local
Attendance of witnesses. enquiries under the provisions of the Code
of Civil Procedure, 1908.

42. If the appellant is not present on
the date fixed, the appeal may be decided
Ex parte decisions. in his absence.

43. The Government of Bengal shall appoint, when necessary,
an officer to be President of the appellate
President of appellate authority. authority for such period as it thinks fit.
The President shall be an officer with judicial or magisterial experience

44. The Boiler Commission shall constitute the panel of
assessors for the purpose of assisting in the hearing of appeals.

45. Whenever the date for an appeal before the appellate
authority has been fixed, the Chief Inspector
Constitution of appellate authority. shall, when necessary, under the orders of
the President of the authority, arrange for the attendance of three
members of the Boiler Commission to act as assessors.

46. All sums realized as fees, costs and penalties under the Act
shall be credited to the Steam Boiler Inspection Fund.

47. In appeals before the appellate authority the President of the authority is authorized to fix the costs and recover them from the appellant in any case in which the appeal is dismissed ; in all cases of appeal in which a local inspection is required by the appellant he shall deposit in advance the full costs of such inspection.

48. Any order on appeal authorising the registering of a boiler or the grant or renewal of a certificate shall be deemed to be subject to the payment of such fees as are prescribed by rules or regulations framed under the Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION FOR REGISTRATION.

49. Technical regulations for the registration of boilers and the scale of fees for registration are prescribed in Part II of the regulations. The details of measurement recorded at the time of registration constitute a permanent record for the boiler and determine the original pressure at which the boiler is allowed to work. It is accordingly essential that the work should be done with the greatest care and precision.

50. Applications for registration shall be made under section 7 (1) to the Chief Inspector, and shall be accompanied under rule 19 by a receipt for the prescribed fee. No application shall be accepted without the receipt. No boiler shall be registered, if on measurement the fee is found to be deficient, until the deficit has been paid. Any excess payment will be refunded at the time of registration.

51. It is essential that no delay should occur in registration. In large towns, the measurements under section 7 (3) should ordinarily be completed and the report submitted to the Chief Inspector within 7 days of the receipt of the application ; in no cases should the interval exceed 30 days. The Chief Inspector should issue his orders under section 7 (4) without delay.

52. The Chief Inspector shall maintain a register of registered boilers in serial order in Form A in two parts ; in Part I (boilers originally registered in the province) the registered number of a boiler shall be the one immediately following the last serial number in the register. Gap

number due to boilers being broken up or transferred to another province shall not be filled up. In Part II (boilers originally registered in other provinces) entries shall be made as prescribed in rule 54. Inspectors shall keep a similar register for all boilers within their jurisdiction.

53. Whenever a boiler is transferred from one province to another, the owner shall, under section 6 (7), Procedure on transfer of a boiler. apply to the Chief Inspector of the province to which the boiler is transferred, for the registration of the transfer; the boiler can not be used until registration has been effected. The Chief Inspector shall then obtain from that province the registration book and memorandum of inspection book of the boiler. No fee shall be charged for recording transfer.

54. On receipt of the registration and memorandum of inspection books the Chief Inspector shall Entry of transferred boiler in register. enter the boiler under its original number in Part II of his register. The registration book and the memorandum of inspection book shall be kept in the Chief Inspector's office.

55. Whenever a boiler has been transferred or broken up, the Note of transfer and dismantled boilers. fact shall be noted in the register of the province from which it has been transferred. In the case of a boiler that has been permanently dismantled the registration book and the memorandum of inspection book shall be destroyed.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR INSPECTION.

56. Detailed instructions for the inspection of boilers are contained in Part II of the regulations. In Reference to previous inspections. making inspections it is important that the Inspector should pay particular attention to entries made in the memorandum of inspection book at the time of the previous inspection.

57. In arranging for inspections particular attention should be paid to the provisions of rule 25(a). If Procedure during inspection. an hydraulic test is necessary in addition to the ordinary inspection, ample notice must be given to the owner. During the inspection of one of a battery of boilers, the Inspector should take the opportunity of examining the other boilers under steam, with special reference to the water gauges, pressure gauges and safety valves.

58. All certificates must be issued from the head office after being countersigned by the Chief Inspector. Issue of certificates and provisional orders. Provisional orders should be issued in

provisional orders. Provisional orders should be issued in every case of registration after hydraulic test if the Inspector is satisfied. The steam test may be witnessed at any convenient time within the period of the provisional order, after which if the test is satisfactory the certificate under section 7 is to be issued.

Provisional orders must also be issued after every completed inspection for renewed certificates, so as to give authority for the use of boilers pending the issue of certificates.

The period specified in any provisional order or certificate shall begin on the day following that on which the completed hydraulic test or thorough inspection is made.

59. Certificates and provisional orders shall be issued in Forms VI and V, respectively.

60. Fees for inspection shall be calculated on the basis of boiler rating as prescribed under rule 11 (1).

FORM A.

Boiler Inspection Department.

REGISTER OF BOILERS.

[illegible]

In Part II. of the register, column 1 should contain the registry number and letters.

Issued by the Commissioner Registered No. _____
 for the inspection of Steam Boilers, Certificate No. _____
 Assam.

FORM B, No. 1.

*Application for the Inspection of Boilers and Steam Pipes under
 the Indian Boilers Act, V of 1923.*

(DIVISION I, RULE 19.)

Registered number of boiler.	Name of Owner or Agent.	Where situated.	Date of inspection.	Description of boiler and age.
1	2	3	4	5

I hereby apply to the Chief Inspector, Boiler Commission, for an inspection of and the grant of a certificate for the boiler above-named.

Dated at _____

This _____ day of _____ 19 .

Owner or Agent.

DIVISION II.

To be sent to owner with application form.

I certify that the following fees and expenses are payable :—

Boiler number.	Boiler rating.	Fees.	Extra fee for Sunday and holiday inspection and other expenses.	TOTAL.
1	2	3	4	5

N.B.—The Division I of this form duly filled in together with the amount of fees and expenses specified above must be forwarded as soon as possible to the office of the Director of Industries and President, Boiler Commission, Calcutta, in order that the necessary inspection may be made.

Dated at Calcutta,

This _____ day of _____ 19 .

Chief Inspector, Boiler Commission,

(112)

DIVISION III.

No.

I hereby certify that Rupees annas and pies ,
have been paid to me this day on account of the inspection of the
boilers above-named.

Dated at Calcutta,

This _____ day of _____ 19 .

Cashier.

DIVISION IV.

Scale of Fees.

[See Regulations 157 and 159, and also rule 11(1).]

				Annual	first ins- pection.	Registra- tion and first ins- pection. under regula- tion 159.
For Boiler Rating not exceeding 100 sq. ft.	...			20	40	
For Boiler Rating exceeding 100 sq. ft. but not exceeding 300 sq. ft.	25			50	60	
" " " 300 " " "	500	"		30	70	
" " " 500 " " "	700	"		35	80	
" " " 700 " " "	900	"		40	90	
" " " 900 " " "	1,100	"		45	100	
" above 1,100 ...	...			50		

(113)

FORM B, No. 2.

Declaration of Inspector.

Registered number of boiler.	Description and material. When and where made.	Repairs and alteration since last inspection.	Purpose for which used.	Boiler rating.
1	2	3	4	5

Date of last hydraulic test and pressure applied.	Date of inspection.	Limit of working pressure of boiler in pounds per square inch.	Date of last hydraulic test of steam pipe.	REMARKS.
6	7	8	9	10

I hereby declare, viz. : —

- (1) That the above-named boiler was duly inspected by me on the _____ 19____ and found to be in accordance with the rules and requirements of the Indian Boilers Act, V of 1923.
- (2) That the boiler with attached steam pipes is in charge of a _____ and is not so exposed as to be dangerous.
- (3) That the said boiler will, in my judgment, be sufficient for a period of _____ months, at a working pressure, which is on no account to exceed the pressure "per square inch in pounds" stated in column 8 of this form.

DATED AT _____

This _____ day of _____ 19____

Inspector.

(114)

FORM C.

Indian Boilers Act, 1923 (Act V of 1923)

Notice of examination of boiler under sections 7 and 8.

No. of 19 .

BOILER INSPECTION OFFICE,

Dated the 19 .

To

In reply to your application, dated , you are hereby informed that boiler register No. at the abovenamed premises will be thoroughly examined hydraulically tested by the Government Inspector on the . To enable the examination to be made, you are bound—

- (a) to afford to the Inspector all reasonable facilities for the examination and all such information as may reasonably be required of you;
- (b) to have the boiler properly prepared and ready for examination in the prescribed manner; and
- (c) in the case of an application for the registration of a boiler to provide such drawings, specifications, certificates and other particulars as may be prescribed.

Voucher No. in acknowledgment of Bank receipt
No. for Rs. accompanies.

Inspector of Boilers.

(See reverse for preparation required.)

(Reverse of Form C).

PREPARATION FOR EXAMINATION.

(See Part II, Chapter I of the Regulations).

REGULATION 150.

(A) PREPARATION FOR THOROUGH INSPECTION.

At every inspection of a boiler for the grant or renewal of a certificate, the boiler shall be empty and thoroughly clean in all its parts. All doors of manholes, handholes, and sight-holes and cleaning plugs and all caps in the headers and mud-drums of water-tube boilers, all firebars, bearers, front plates, bridge plates, firebridges, brick arches, oil fuel burners and mechanical stoker fittings shall be removed. All valves and cocks comprising the boiler mounting shall be opened up and taken apart and the valves and cocks ground, when necessary, before the Inspector's visit.

Provision shall be made for the removal of lagging or brickwork or other concealing part and for the drilling of plates, if required by the Inspector, and for verifying the pressure gauge and safety valve dimensions and weights. All smoke tubes, exterior of water tubes, smoke boxes, and external flues must be swept clean.

Provision shall be made for the effective disconnection of all steam and hot water communication with any other boilers under steam, as prescribed in Part III of the regulations. This shall be effected either by the removal of a length of pipe from the steam and feed piping or by the insertion of substantial blank flanges. Where blank flanges are employed, they shall be inserted between the flange of the chest and the pipe attached to it. No blank flange shall be inserted between a safety valve chest and the boiler.

NOTE.—These provisions as to effective disconnection shall extend to every case wherein a person is sent, or with the assent of the owner or person in charge goes, into a boiler for any purpose. See Part III of the Regulations.

(B) PREPARATION FOR HYDRAULIC TEST.

The chest of all mountings subject to steam pressure shall be in place and shut tight or blank-flanged. The safety valves shall either be jammed down or removed and the chest-opening blank-flanged. The attachment* for the Inspector's pressure gauge and the

nipple† for connecting the Inspector's test pump hose shall be in order. All doors shall be properly jointed and tightened up. The boiler shall be completely filled with water, care being taken to allow all air to escape and, if possible, a preliminary test not exceeding the working pressure of the boiler shall be taken before the Inspector's visit to test the tightness of the joints. When a boiler is hydraulically tested for the first time, it shall be entirely cleared of lagging or brickwork; at subsequent tests the lagging or brickwork, or portions thereof, shall be removed if required by the Inspector.

PREPARATION NOW REQUIRED (A), (B).

NOTE.—The last certificate for the boiler shall be shown to the Inspector.

* Tapped $\frac{3}{4}$ " Whitworth bolt and nut thread.

† Tapped $\frac{5}{8}$ " Whitworth bolt and nut thread.

G. E. SOAMES,

Second Secy. to the Govt. of Assam.

The 14th February 1924.

No. 302-R.—In exercise of the power conferred by section 29 of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923 (Act V of 1923), the Governor in Council is pleased to make the following amendments in the Assam Boiler Rules prescribed by Notification No. 2937-R., dated the 10th December 1923 :—

Amendments.

Cancel clause (5) of rule 11 of the Assam Boiler Rules, and put the following as footnote at the bottom of page 2 below the rules :—

"Note.—For the fee to be charged for the examination of drawings or tracings of boilers of steam pipes, see regulation 165(b) as published in the *Gazette of India*, dated the 27th October 1923."

G. E. SOAMES,

Second Secretary to the Government of Assam.

The 29th April 1924.

No. 982-R.—The following notification issued by the Government of Bengal in the Commerce Department is republished for general information :—

No. 50-T-Com., dated Darjeeling, the 22nd April 1924—(Commerce).—In pursuance of rule 2 of the Bengal Boilers Rules, 1924, made under section 29 of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923 (V of 1923), the Governor in Council is pleased to appoint a Boiler Commission consisting of the following members with effect from the 1st January 1924 :—

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. The Director of Industries, Bengal | ... <i>Ex-officio</i> , President |
| | of the Com- |
| | mission. |
| 2. Engineer Commander W. H. Waters, | } <i>Members.</i> |
| R.I.M., Principal Engineer and Ship- | |
| Surveyor to Government. | |
| 3. R. P. Adams, Esq., O.B.E., A.M.I., (Mech.) | |
| E., Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal | |
| 4. John Williamson, Esq., A.M.I., (Mech.) | |
| E.M., I.E., India, Manager, Kinnison | } <i>Members.</i> |
| Jute Mills, Tittagur, Representative | |
| of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. | |
| 5. H. E. Skinner, Esq., Messrs. Jessop | } <i>Members.</i> |
| & Co., Calcutta, Representative of | |
| Engineering Firms. | |
| 6. H. H. Reynolds, Esq., M.I.E. (Ind.), | } <i>Members.</i> |
| Representative of the Indian Mining | |
| Association. | |
| 7. The Chief Inspector | ... <i>Ex-officio</i> , Secretary. |

G. E. SOAMES,

Second Secretary to the Government of Assam.

Royal Commission on Superior Civil Service.

Dated Cachar, 13th January 1924.

From--The CHAIRMAN, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To--All MEMBERS, of the General Committee, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I beg to enclose a copy of the reply to the questionnaires of the Royal Commission on the Superior Civil Service and shall be glad to have any criticism you may have to make.

The reply of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, to the questions of the Royal Commission, Superior Civil Services in India.

The experience gained to date of the operation of the system of Government established by the Government of India Act is insufficient to warrant radical changes in the composition and status of the services.

Until it is seen what the non-co-operation party will do in the Councils, and until it is seen how the thinking population of India will act in consequence, it is impossible to foresee what permanent changes in the powers, functions, and position of the services will be necessary.

It seems clear at the moment that the platform policy of the non-co-operators—the policy of wrecking the system of Government established by the Government of India Act—is not likely to be pressed too far in the Councils and that any attempt to do so will create an organised opposition on the part of those Indians who believe in constitutional Government and constitutional progress.

In India even more than in England it is a mistake to attach great weight to the platform utterances of political orators.

The real political problems in India are being carefully camouflaged at the present time but they must be the determining factor in the progressive development of the present system of Government and in the future of the services.

On this side of India the most important factor is the latent and irreconcilable antagonism between Hindus and Mahomedans.

Another important factor and it is of prime importance in other Provinces—is that of the relations of high caste Hindus with those of low caste, and Mahommedans.

There also exist local but very real antagonisms such as that between the Assamese and the Bengali, the hill man and the plainsman, the indigenous tribe and the immigrant.

Any talk of “pacts” at this stage of India’s development is mere political dishonesty and devoid of any real foundation in the feelings of the various parties, and no amount of political promises will make India an united nation to-day or in the near future.

Looking at the questions propounded by the Royal Commission from this standpoint it would be seen that the responsibilities of the Crown for the Government of India demand the retention of a predominant British element in the Administration, not necessarily for the purpose of governing the country on British lines, but in order that the administrative system which the Government of India Act has adumbrated may be operated and controlled by officials, who will be regarded by the people as fair minded and impartial, men on whom no local coercion of caste, religion, or family interest, can be exercised or suspected.

From the point of view of the mofussil resident, Indian as well as European, the keystone of the administration has been the District Officer and must remain so for many years to come; any policy of the higher authorities of weakening the power of the District Officer would be a grave error, as he is the man who has to deal with the real India, *i.e.*, the uneducated agricultural millions.

Let the Councils have full power eventually to lay down the lines of the administration but let us have strong impartial officers to carry out the policy of the Councils.

What is required most is “time”, as it is certain that for a period the British Official will find his option unpleasant, but as the Councils and Ministers gain experience of practical administration the sharp edge of political and racial animosities will gradually become less acute.

With regard to the future recruitment of the services it seems essential that Europeans shall be recruited by the Secretary of State

to ensure that there be an equal guarantee and equal conditions of service, such matters cannot be left to Provincial Governments, if the best class of European is wanted.

In all matters other than a guarantee of time, scale, pay, allowances and pension to European members the services may easily be provincialised ; as in actual practice they at present are.

As regards Indians, there is not the same danger that a reactionary Provincial Government would break faith their own countrymen and their appointment and control might safely be entirely provincialised.

It would, however, be wrong to amalgamate the superior service with the existing Provincial service.

The latter have until recently been appointed on the system of personal patronage and their promotion has also been regulated by patronage and not by merit.

It was a mistake from the beginning not to place the appointment of at any rate the bulk of the Provincial services and basis of competition following on nomination.

It might be feasible and satisfactory to appoint men in such services as the I. M. S. or the P. W. D. on short term contracts, as such men could expect other appointments elsewhere, and so far as these services are concerned it might perhaps be advisable entirely to Indianize both of them as at present the unemployment among the educated Indians is most acute and one of the great causes towards unrest ; but no such system could possibly be used in recruiting the administrative services.

The existing rates of pay in the all-India services appear to be adequate for the Indian members inasmuch as this is their own country and they do not need to incur expenses which a strange environment and climate impose on the European, nor do they have to send their families to England.

The existing remuneration of British Officers, however, does not appear to be adequate, no doubt it is sufficient for Europeans to live on in a certain way, but it is not sufficient for them to live on in the style that is expected of them, nor is it sufficient to attract the class of man who is really wanted in India at the

present time but to give proportionate pensions to men to live at the present time is wrong, unless the Government of India consider it is a means of ridding the services of a class of undesirable men who are unable to adapt themselves to the new conditions in India, as passed by the Houses of Commons in the form of the Government of India Act.

(Sd.) E. W. HOBSON,

Chairman,

SURMA VALLEY BRANCH, I. T. A.

Electoral Rules.

Letter No. 114—116-L., dated Shillong, 25th January 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, to the Government of Assam, Legislative Department,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to invite a reference to Rule 9(6) of the Electoral Rules, and to say that Government propose to direct the preparation of a list of amendments in each constituency as provided by the above-mentioned rule at such intervals as may be found convenient. I am, therefore, to enquire whether in your opinion this should be done annually or at some shorter interval.

Rule 9(6) of the Electoral Rules, reads as follows :—

Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained, any person may apply to such authority as may be appointed in this behalf by the Local Government for the amendment of any electoral roll for the time being, in force, and the Local Government, at any time after any such application has been made in respect of an electoral roll, by notification in the Gazette direct the preparation of a list of amendments thereto, and all the provisions of this rule shall apply in the case of every such list in like manner as they apply in the case of electoral rolls :

Provided that, where any such application is made for the correction of an existing entry in the electoral roll and the said authority is satisfied after such inquiry as the local Government may by

regulation prescribe that the entry relates to the applicant and is erroneous or defective in any particular, enemy amend the roll or cause it to be amended accordingly.

Letter dated 26th March 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Legislative Department.

In reply to your letter No. 114—116-L., dated the 25th January 1924, inviting a reference to Rule 9(6) of the Electoral Rules and asking the opinion of this Branch of the Association as to whether the preparation of a list of amendments in each constituency should be done annually or at some shorter interval. I am directed to say my Committee consider the preparation of a list of amendments in each constituency should be done twice annually, in view of the frequent changes owing to voters going on leave or being transferred to another garden.

The Judicial Delays Committee.

No. 185-O., dated Calcutta, 5th February 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

The President of the Committee which has been appointed on the subject of delays in civil suits and proceedings, and particularly in execution matters, has asked the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for any assistance they can give him in the matter of submitting evidence, representations or suggestions. The Committee of the Chamber have enquired, in this connection, whether the tea industry can give any such evidence or suggestions and I am directed to ask if you know of any cases that might be brought to the notice of the Judicial Delays Committee or any proposals that would help their enquiry. The matter is one of considerable urgency and a very early reply is requested.

Dated Binnakandi, 22nd February 1921.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

In reply to your letter No. 185-O., dated the 5th instant on the above subject, I am directed to say my Committee regret they are unable to give any assistance in the matter of submitting evidence, representations or suggestions.

As it appears from other correspondence on the subject, addressed to this Branch by the Government of Assam, that the fact that delays are often due to wilful and deliberate causes is fully recognised, my Committee consider the question as to how this can be best dealt with is more a matter for the Judicial Department than for them.

Assam European representative on the Legislative Assembly.

No. 454, dated Shillong, 6th February 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

In continuation of my letter of 25th ultimo, I enclose copies of three resolutions which were passed by my General Committee on the 30th ultimo.

I have written Mr. Chalmers to inform me of his willingness to accept nomination for the Legislative Assembly, but have not yet received his reply and expect he may be away. He has, however, already informed the Acting Chairman and the writer of his intention to be nominated so his written acceptance should be only a formal matter.

In the event of members of your Association having no acquaintance with Mr. Chalmers I may mention that he has been a resident in Assam for about 15 years. On the outbreak of War in Mesopotamia he exported his own aerial boat from Jorhat to Bombay at his own expense and subsequently did fine work therewith in rescuing the wounded on the Tigris during the advance on Bagdad

and the subsequent retreat from Ctesiphon. Subsequently he was placed in charge of the Army Clothing Department in Madras and Karachi where he remained until the close of the War and in recognition of his War Services he was awarded the *C. S. I.* After that date he purchased the Bazalani Tea Estate in the Sub-Division of Doom Dooma of this District where he expended a considerable sum in the manufacture of indigo. This having proved unsuccessful he is now concentrating his energies on the Tea Estate which is being managed by an European Manager. Mr. Chalmers has therefore an intimate knowledge of the labour conditions of this Province, more particularly with regard to the Tea Industry. He is much respected by all those who know him and my Committee consider the Province are fortunate in obtaining his consent to represent the European Community in Assam on the Legislative Assembly. His splendid work in Mesopotamia and in other parts of India are well-known to the Government of India and on this account alone he is sure to receive a welcome and respectful hearing in the Legislative Assembly.

The out-of-pocket expenses referred to in the resolutions over and above travelling and halting allowances paid him by the Government of India are not likely to amount to more than a trifling sum. This Association, however, felt that if Mr. Chalmers is put to any extra expenditure on account of his constituency these should be guaranteed him. I may mention that he is of a most modest character and his wants are small. My Committee suggested the contribution to such expenses should be paid by this and your Association on an acreage basis, as, owing to the financial position of the European Association, it would be useless to ask them to contribute. As any contributions is not likely to amount to a large sum my Association are prepared to pay two-thirds of such contribution if your Association will pay the remaining one-third. By this proportion you will observe this Association will be paying more than their share on an acreage basis.

For your private information I may inform you that I have ascertained the Government of India are very anxious for the representative of the European Community of this Province to attend the Legislative Assembly immediately and therefore it is essential that Mr. Joseph's successor be elected immediately. Under these circumstances, I shall be glad if you will be good enough to obtain

the consent of your Association to support Mr. Chalmers' nomination and election to the Legislative Assembly and agree to pay the one-third share of his out-of-pocket expenses mentioned in the resolutions at the earliest possible date and inform me of your Association's decision by wire, as the Government of India and the Local Government are both waiting to publish the necessary notifications as they state the matter is very urgent.

I may mention I have to-day wired Mr. Mellor in reply to his enquiries that I hope to arrange the nomination of Mr. Joseph's successor within 14 days. To enable me to do this I shall require your Association's consent by wire within 8 days at the least, as the nomination papers have to be filed in Shillong.

*Copies of resolutions passed at the meeting of the General Committee,
Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association held on the
30th January 1924.*

- (1) "That Mr. Chalmers be informed that it is the unanimous
"desire of this Association that he should represent the
"European Community of this Valley on the Legis-
"lative Assembly and requesting him to accept nomi-
"nation on the understanding that his out-of-pocket
"expenses over and above his Government Travelling
"and Halting allowances be guaranteed."
- (2) "That this Association contribute two-third to the out-of-
"pocket expenses above mentioned and the Surma Valley
"Branch be invited to contribute the remaining one-
"third."
- (3) "That in the event of Mr. Chalmers accepting nomination
"and the Surma Valley Branch undertaking to pay
"their proportion of the expenses mentioned the European
"Association, Assam Branch be informed that this
"Association approve the nomination of Mr. T. A.
"Chalmers to succeed Mr. Joseph on the Legislative
"Assembly and that in conjunction with the Surma
"Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, this Associ-
"ation guarantee any out-of-pocket expenses to which
"Mr. Chalmers may be put in connection with his duties

“on the Assembly over and above the travelling and
“halting allowances received by him from the Govern-
“ment of India.”

Dated Binnakandi, 15th February 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to your letter dated the 6th instant on the above subject, I wired you as follows, on the 13th instant :—

“Reference your letter No. 454, dated 6th. Members this Branch agreeable to nomination of Mr. Chalmers and to payment one-third of his out-of-pocket expenses if these are limited to small amount. Having no personal knowledge of Mr. Chalmers members understand your Committee are satisfied he is a suitable representative.”

I am further directed to say that so long as the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association are satisfied that Mr. Chalmers is a suitable man to represent us on the Legislative Assembly, and that this Branch is only called on to pay one-third of his actual out-of-pocket expenses above what he allowed by the Government of India, we are quite agreeable to the arrangement, and pleased to learn your Branch have been able to secure a representative with a first hand knowledge of the district and its requirements.

The income of this Branch at present only just covers current expenses, so that the payment of anything more than the trifling sum referred to in your letter would entail a further appeal to Proprietors and Managing Agents for an increased subscription.

Clearing of the Longai River.

Letter No. 396-O., dated Shillong, 14th February 1924.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,
Revenue Department, Forest Branch,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to refer to my letter No. 2860-R., dated the 4th December 1923, on the subject of the clearing of the Longai River of

snags and to forward for your information a copy of the note recorded of the discussion between the Conservator of Forests, Assam and Mr. J. C. Dawson on the subject.

*Result of discussion between Mr. Dawson and Conservator of Forests
on the subject of the clearing of the Lohai River.*

The principal causes of obstruction of this river are logs belonging to traders and tree snags of which the latter are the most dangerous and troublesome and will be dealt with first.

Tree snags are formed by the river under cutting trees growing on the bank the weight of the tree causing it to fall over into the river. The smaller roots and branches usually rot after a time and a high flood may then bring down an irregular mass of wood consisting of a long stout log with stumps of branches at one end and roots at the other, the latter particularly standing out at right angles. These snags are a menace to navigation when they lie in the fair way particularly when the river is half full. I understand that practically no trees likely to form snags are found on the banks of the river below Chandkhira and the greater number of such trees exist above Loirpoa and are brought down mainly from the reaches leading up to the Lushai Hills passing through cultivated areas of Forest Department villages. I saw part of the river which was full of snags and stranded logs every four yards. The falling in of a tree on the banks not only yields a snag but by blocking the channel, diverts the river and so cause it to undermine other trees on the opposite bank.

Mr. Dawson is about to clear the whole river from Loirpoa down to Karimganj of snags but at the same time wants to so arrange it that as far possible no more snags will come floating down afterwards.

There are two ways of obviating this—one is by clearing the banks of the river of overhanging trees. Such trees if felled and the branches removed from the main stem cannot form snags. Another way is to catch snags as they come floating down and secure them at one side or other of the river till such time as they can be cut up. The trees left on the banks and such snags as come down are of inferior species which are only valuable for firewood. Mr. Dawson thinks that a market for this could be obtained by traders from Karimganj but Mr. Gupta, the Divisional Forest Officer thinks there

is not sufficient profit in cutting up and carrying firewood all the way to Karimganj to make it worth a trader's while. Mr. Dawson can utilize part of the fuel which can be obtained from snags in the river adjoining the Isabheel grant for the purpose of his factory and this I am prepared to allow him to do free of cost should he undertake to arrange for catching snags as suggested at or near the junction with the Longai of its tributaries the Isacherra, Bazaricherra and Luhai-punja. If the snags are truncated at these points it is possible that traders may be found to purchase them for sale at Karimganj or further downstream.

As regards trader's timber which comes down in the form of logs. These do damage to boats anchored in the river and also to bridges en route. The sunken logs also help to block the river and form obstruction on which snags got caught. Under the present system the traders pay when the timber is brought to the Revenue Station at Loirpoa and sold to other traders, they have to pay, however, for logs as marked in the forest but until they realize the money from the other traders they are sometimes allowed to defer payment to the Department. Traders who have not completely paid for all their logs are allowed extensions and at the same time given permits to fell more trees. No trader should be given permits to fell additional (green) trees until he has paid in full for all the trees previously felled by him many of which are lying in the river bed between the forest and the Revenue Station. If this is enforced it will go a long way to making the traders get out all his old logs for which he will have paid in full at the earliest possible moment.

It is also suggested that traders who leave logs in the river for longer than the following cold weather without lifting them with elephants and fastening bamboos on them should lose all lien on such logs and any one should be allowed to remove them after, say, the 30th April in the following year after the first floating in the previous year. This would probably necessitate some alteration in the present draft rules.

The Conservator intends in future to restrict the number of traders and to increase their responsibilities by adopting the system introduced by him in the Cachar Division of selling limited catchment areas which will be put up by one to the bidder who agrees to pay the highest amount for the monopoly of such catchment area for

a period of, say, five years. This will help to clear the channels as the trader having an area to himself will be more likely to take trouble over it in the way of clearing channels cutting elephant drag paths and the like than if any casual permit-holder was allowed to work in the same area with him.

2. I am issuing orders as regards the extension of the methods recently adopted with much success in Cachar to the Sylhet forests and there remains the question of the vested interests of the timber trader who has allowed timber to sink and waits for some one else to salve it before he puts in a claim. This will require alteration of the transit rules and will be dealt with separately.

(Sd.) F. TRAFFORD,

29th January 1924.

Conservator of Forests, Assam.

Leases of building sites in Haflong.

D. O. No. 6021-30-R., dated Silchar, 15th March 1924.

From—The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I enclose a copy of a letter which I have written to various property holders in Haflong which explains itself. This is hardly a matter on which I can approach the Tea Association officially, but it is a matter which directly affect the planting community socially in this Valley, and as such I think it is only proper that I should consult you demi-officially before coming to a decision. Would you kindly let me have your advice after consulting such individuals as you consider desirable.

Copy of D. O. letter, dated the 15th March 1924, from the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar to various property holders in Haflong.

As you are probably aware leases of building sites in Government land in the European quarter of Haflong Station are issued with the condition that they cannot be transferred except with the permission of the Deputy Commissioner. The objects of this restriction are probably (1) that land in the European residential quarter should

not pass into undesirable hands and (2) that residential sites should not be used for unsuitable purposes, I have recently received applications from the Right Reverend Mgr. L. Mathias, S. C. Prefect Apostolic of Assam on behalf of the Catholic Mission for permission to purchase the Grovelands Hotel and also to take up the vacant site between the "limit" Bungalow and the Hotel. The Prefect Apostolic also informed me personally that the Mission would also like to secure the "limit" Bungalow as well. The object of requiring this very large site is to start a school for European boys (the term European would no doubt also include Anglo Indians). The discretion of granting the permission asked for rests with me, but this is a matter which really concerns the permanent Railway Officials, the existing property holders and the floating hot weather European population more than it does me personally. Before coming to a decision then I would be grateful if you would let me have your opinion on the proposal as one of the property holder in the station.

I might add that my information is that a suitable site could be found for such a school in new land to the West of the existing Roman Catholic Girls' School. I should be much obliged if you could let me have an early reply.

Dated Binnakandi, 16th April 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar.

In reply to your letter No. 6021-30-R., dated the 15th ultimo, re leases of building sites in Haflong, I have consulted various members of this Branch of the Association, and there is a general consensus of opinion that it would be a great pity if the sites now occupied by Bungalows were lost to the floating hot weather European population. Owing to the difficulty of running the hotel as a paying concern the question appears a difficult one, and might I think be left to the officials of the Assam-Bengal Railway, the property holders in Haflong and the Government to settle, as unless one is interested in Haflong, and knows all the facts of the case, an expression of opinion is not of much value. If the proposed school would adversely affect Haflong as a place where planters can go to for a

change, everyone consulted agrees that it should not be allowed to monopolise all the best sites—especially as there are others suitable for the purpose.

Workmen's Compensation Act.

Letter No. 805-10-R., dated Shillong, 8th April 1924.

From—The UNDER-SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,
Revenue Department, Miscellaneous Branch,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

I am directed by the Government of Assam to forward a copy of letter No. L-859, dated the 17th March, 1924, and enclosures, from the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour and to request that you will be so good as to favour this Government an expression of opinion of your Association on the draft rules under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, at an early date.

No. 570-O., dated Calcutta, 12th April 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

You may have seen, from the proceedings of the meeting, of the General Committee held on 25th March, that the Chairman of the Association has received, and has accepted, an invitation from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to act as a member of a Standing Sub-Committee which the Chamber has decided to appoint for the consideration of questions affecting the Indian Factories Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act and other industrial legislation.

2 The Sub-Committee has now been asked to consider, *inter alia*, draft rules which have been issued for criticism by the Government of India under section 32 of the Workmen's Compensation Act. Section 32 of the Act confers power on the Governor-General in Council to make rules for certain purposes and a copy of notification by the Government of India No. L-859, dated the 10th March

1924 is sent herewith. You will see that the draft rules are to be taken into consideration on or after 16th June.

3. The Chairman directs me to ask you to be good enough to favour me with an expression of the views of your Committee on the draft rules as it will be of assistance to him, when the matter is being discussed in the Chamber Sub-Committee of which he is a member, if he has your Committee's views.

The 26th March 1924.

No. 104-R.—The following notification issued by the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour is republished for general information :—

No. L-859, dated Delhi, the 10th March 1924.—The following draft of certain rules which the Governor-General in Council proposes to make under section 32 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923), is hereby published as required by section 34 of the said Act for the information of persons likely to be affected thereby, and notice is hereby given that the said draft will be taken into consideration on or after the sixteenth day of June 1924, and that any objection or suggestion which may be received from any person with respect to the said draft before the date aforesaid will be considered by the Governor-General in Council.

DRAFT RULES.

PRELIMINARY.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Short title. | 1. These rules may be called the Indian Workmen's Compensation Rules, 1924. |
| Definitions. | 2. In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,— |
| | (a) "the Act" means the Workmen's Compensation Act; 1923. |
| | (b) "Form" means a form appended to these rules ; |
| | (c) "section" means a section of the Act. |

PART I.

REVIEW OF HALF-MONTHLY PAYMENTS AND COMMUTATION THEREOF.

3. Application for review of a half-monthly payment under section 6 may be made without being accompanied by a medical certificate—
When application may be made without medical certificate.

- (a) by the employer, on the ground that since the right to compensation was determined the workman's wages have increased ;
- (b) by the workman, on the ground that since the right to compensation was determined his wages have diminished ;
- (c) by the workman, on the ground that the employer, having commenced to pay compensation, has ceased to pay the same, notwithstanding the fact that there has been no change in the workman's condition such as to warrant such cessation ;
- (d) either by the employer or by the workman on the ground that the workman has ceased, since the right to compensation was determined, to be a minor, provided that a certificate of the nature referred to in section 18 or any other certificate of a qualified medical practitioner is produced in support of the application ;
- (e) either by the employer or by the workman, on the ground that the determination of the rate of compensation for the time being in force was obtained by fraud or other unlawful means.

4. If, on examining an application for review by an employer in which the reduction or discontinuance of half-monthly payments is sought, it appears to the Commissioner that there is ground for believing that the employer has a right to such reduction or discontinuance, he may at any time issue an order withholding the half-monthly payments in whole or in part pending his decision on the application.

5. (1) Where application is made to the Commissioner under section 7 for the redemption of a right to receive half-monthly payments by the payment of a lump sum, the Commissioner shall award such sum as is
Procedure on application for commutation.

sufficient, with simple interest at the rate of one per cent. per mensem, to provide the total of the half-monthly payments which would be payable for the period during which he estimates that the disablement will continue.

(2) When, in any case to which sub-rule (1) applies, the Commissioner is unable to form an approximate estimate of the probable duration of the disablement, he may from time to time postpone a decision on the application for a period not exceeding two months at any one time.

PART II.

DEPOSIT OF COMPENSATION.

6. (1) An employer depositing compensation with the Commissioner under sub-section (1) of section 8 shall furnish therewith a statement in Form A and shall be given a receipt in Form B.

(2) If in the statement referred to in sub-rule (1) the employer indicates that he desires to be made a party to the distribution proceedings, the Commissioner shall, before allotting the sum deposited as compensation, afford to the employer an opportunity of establishing that the person to whom he proposes to allot such sum is not a dependant of the deceased workman, or, as the case may be, that no one of such persons is such dependant.

(3) The statement of disbursements to be furnished on application by the employer under sub-section (4) of section 8 shall be in Form C.

7. If it appears to the Commissioner that a sum deposited under sub-section (1) of section 8 is less than the amount of compensation payable under sub-section (1) of section 4, he may at any time before completing the distribution of the sum so deposited, either on his own motion or otherwise, require the employer to deposit such further sum as will, with the sum previously deposited, make up the amount so payable.

8. (1) Where a dependant of a deceased workman claims that
Procedure where no com- compensation is payable in respect of the
pensation deposited. death of the workman, and no compensa-
tion has been deposited in accordance with sub-section (1) of section
8 in respect thereof, the dependant may apply to the Commissioner
for the issue of an order requiring the employer to deposit compensa-
tion in accordance with the said sub-section :

Provided that no such application shall be entertained unless the
applicant certifies therein that he has requested the employer to deposit
compensation and that the employer has refused or omitted to do so.

(2) The Commissioner shall dispose of such application in
accordance with the provisions of Part V of these rules : Provided
that—

(a) the Commissioner may, at any time before issues are framed,
cause notice to be given in such manner as he thinks
fit to all or any of the dependants of the deceased work-
man who have not joined in the application, requiring
them, if they desire to join therein, to appear before
him on a date specified in this behalf ;

(b) any dependant to whom such notice has been given and
who fails to appear and to join in the application on the
date specified in the notice shall not be permitted there-
after to claim that the employer is liable to deposit
compensation.

(3) If, after completing the inquiry into the application, the
Commissioner issues an order requiring the employer to deposit
compensation in accordance with sub-section (1) of section 8, nothing
in sub-rule (2) shall be deemed to prohibit the allotment of any part
of the sum deposited as compensation to a dependant of the deceased
workman who failed to join in the application.

9. An employer depositing compensation in accordance with
sub-section (2) of section 8 shall furnish
Deposit under section 8(2). therewith a statement in Form D and
shall be given a receipt in Form E.

PART III.

NOTICE OF ACCIDENT.

10. A notice given under sub-section (1) of section 10 shall not be deemed invalid by reason only of the fact that it is given by a person other than the workman to whom personal injury has been caused or a dependant of such workman.

11. (1) Any employer to whom notice of accident has been given, may, at any time, notwithstanding the fact that no claim for compensation has been instituted in respect of such accident, present to the Commissioner a memorandum, supported by an affidavit made by himself or by any person subordinate to him having knowledge of the facts stated in the memorandum, embodying the results of any investigation or inquiry which has been made into the circumstances or cause of the accident.

(2) A memorandum presented under sub-rule (1) shall, subject to the payment of such fee as may be prescribed, be recorded by the Commissioner.

12. (1) An employer by whom not less than five hundred workmen are employed in a factory or mine, and any other employer to whom the provisions of this rule are applied by the Commissioner for the local area concerned or by the Local Government, shall maintain in Form F a book to which the employer's workmen and any dependant of any such workman and any person acting in good faith on behalf of such workman or dependant shall have reasonable freedom of access during working hours.

(2) In cases to which this rule applies the giving and serving of a notice of accident which are required by section 10 may be effected by entry in the book referred to in sub-rule (1) of the particulars specified in Form F relating to the accident in respect of which notice is to be given and served.

(3) Before applying this rule to an employer under sub-rule (1), the Commissioner or the Local Government, as the case may be, shall give not less than fourteen days' notice to such employer.

PART IV.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

13. A workman who is required by sub-section (1) of section 11 to submit himself to examination by a qualified medical practitioner shall be bound to do so in accordance with the rules contained in this Part and not otherwise.

Workman not to be required to submit to medical examination save in accordance with rules.

14. When such workman is present on the employer's premises and the employer offers to have him examined free of charge by a medical practitioner who is so present, the workman shall submit himself for examination forthwith.

Examination when workman and medical practitioner both on premises.

15. In cases to which rule 14 does not apply the employer may—

Examination of other cases.

(a) send the medical practitioner to the workman's residence, in which case the workman shall submit himself for examination on being requested to do so by the medical practitioner, or

(b) send to the workman an offer in writing of free medical examination, in which case the workman shall submit himself for medical examination at the employer's premises or at such other place in the vicinity as is specified in such offer and at such time as is so specified.

Provided that—

(i) the time so specified shall not be between the hours of 7 P.M. and 6 A.M., and

(ii) in cases where the workman's condition renders it impossible or inadvisable that he should leave his place of residence, he shall not be required to submit himself to medical examination save at such place.

16. A workman who is in receipt of a half-monthly payment shall not be required to submit himself for medical examination more than twice in the first month following the accident or more than once in any subsequent month.

Maximum number of examinations per mensem.

17. If a workman whose right to compensation has been suspended under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) of section 11 subsequently offers himself for examination, his examination shall take place on the employer's premises or at such other place in the vicinity as may be fixed by the employer, and at a time to be fixed by the employer not being, save with the express consent of the workman, more than 72 hours after the workman has so offered himself.

18. A female workman shall not be required to be examined by a male practitioner if she objects to such examination.
Female not to be examined by male practitioner.

PART V.

PROCEDURE.

19. Save as otherwise provided in these rules, the procedure to be followed by Commissioners in the disposal of cases under the Act or these rules and by the parties in such cases, shall be regulated in accordance with the rules contained in this part.

20. (1) All applications of the nature referred to in section 22 shall, unless the Commissioner otherwise directs, be filed in duplicate and shall be signed by the applicant.
Applications.

(2) There shall be appended to every such application a certificate, which shall be signed by the applicant, to the effect that the statement of facts contained in the application is to the best of his knowledge and belief accurate.

21. On receiving such application, the Commissioner may examine the applicant on oath, and, if he does so, shall record the substance of the examination in the manner provided for the recording of evidence in section 25.
Examination of applicant

22. The Commissioner may, after considering the application and, if he thinks fit, examining the applicant, summarily dismiss the application, if, in his opinion, there are no sufficient grounds for proceeding thereon.
Summary dismissal of application.

23. If the application is not dismissed under rule 22, the Preliminary inquiry into application. Commissioner may, for reasons to be recorded, call upon the applicant to produce evidence in support of the application before calling upon any other party, and, if upon considering such evidence the Commissioner is of opinion that there is no case for the relief claimed, he may dismiss the application.

24. If the Commissioner does not dismiss the application under rule 22 or rule 23, he shall send to the Notice to opposite party. party from whom the applicant claims relief (hereinafter referred to as the opposite party) a copy of the application together with a notice of the date on which he will dispose of the application, and may call upon the parties to produce upon that date any evidence which they may wish to tender.

25. (1) The opposite party may, on appearing before the Appearance and examination of opposite party. Commissioner, file a written statement dealing with the claim raised in the application, and any such written statement shall form part of the record.

(2) If the opposite party contests the claim made but does not file a written statement, the Commissioner shall proceed to examine him upon the claim, and shall reduce the result of the examination to writing.

26. (1) After considering any written statement and the result Framing of issues. of any examination of the parties present, the Commissioner shall ascertain upon what material propositions of fact or of law the parties are at variance, and shall thereupon proceed to frame and record the issues upon which the right decision of the case appears to him to depend.

(2) In recording the issues, the Commissioner shall distinguish between those issues which in his opinion concern points of fact and those which concern points of law.

27. When issues both of law and of fact arise in the same case, and the Commissioner is of opinion that the Power to postpone trial of issues of fact where issues of law arise. case may be disposed of on the issues of law only, he may try those issues first, and for that purpose may, if he thinks fit, postpone the settlement

of the issues of fact until after the issues of law have been determined.

Diary.

28. The Commissioner shall maintain under his hand a brief diary of the proceedings on an application.

29. If the Commissioner finds it impossible to dispose of an application at one hearing, he shall record the reasons which necessitate a postponement.

Reasons for postponement to be recorded.

30. (1) The Commissioner, in passing orders, shall record concisely in a judgment his finding on each of the issues framed and his reasons for such finding.

Judgment.

(2) The Commissioner, at the time of signing and dating his judgment, shall pronounce his decision, and thereafter no addition or alteration shall be made to the judgment other than the correction of a clerical or arithmetical mistake arising from accidental slip or omission.

31. If an application is presented by any party to the proceedings for the citation of witnesses, the Commissioner shall, on payment of the prescribed expenses and fees, issue summonses for the appearance of such witnesses unless he considers that their appearance is not necessary for the just decision of the case.

Summoning of witnesses.

32. If the Commissioner is satisfied that the applicant is unable, by reason of poverty, to pay the prescribed fees, he may remit any or all of such fees. If the case is decided in favour of the applicant, the prescribed fees which, had they not been remitted, would have been due to be paid, may be added to the costs of the case and recovered in such manner as the Commissioner in his order regarding costs may direct.

Exemption from payment of costs.

33. A Commissioner before whom any proceeding relating to an injury by accident is pending may, at any time, enter the place where the workman was injured, or where the workman ordinarily performed his work, for the purpose of making a local inspection or of examining any persons likely to be able to give information relevant to the proceedings.

Right of entry for local inspection.

34. (1) If the Commissioner proposes to conduct a local inspection with a view to examining on the spot the circumstances in which an accident took place, he shall give the parties or their representatives notice of his intention to conduct such inspection unless in his opinion the urgency of the case renders the giving of such notice impracticable.

(2) Such notice may be given orally or in writing, and, in the case of an employer, may be given to any person upon whom notice of a claim can be served under sub-section (2) of section 10, or to the representative of any such person.

(3) Any party, or the representative of any party, may accompany the Commissioner at a local inspection.

(4) The Commissioner, after making a local inspection, shall note briefly in a memorandum any facts observed, and shall show the memorandum to any party who desires to see the same, and, on payment of the prescribed fee, shall supply any party with a copy thereof.

(5) The memorandum shall form part of the record.

35. (1) The Commissioner during a local inspection or at any other time, save at a formal hearing of a case pending before him, may examine summarily any person likely to be able to give information relative to such case, whether such person has been or is to be called as a witness in the case or not, and whether any or all of the parties are present or not.

(2) No oath shall be administered to a person examined under sub-rule (1).

(3) Statements made by persons examined under sub-rule (1), if reduced to writing, shall not be signed by the person making the statement, nor shall they, except as hereinafter provided, be incorporated in the record or utilised by the Commissioner for the purpose of arriving at a decision on the case.

(4) If a witness who has been examined under sub-rule (1) makes in evidence any material statement contradicting any statement made by him in such examination, the Commissioner may call his attention to such statement, and shall in that case direct

that the parties be furnished with the relevant part of such statement for the purpose of examining or cross-examining the witness.

(5) Any statement or part of a statement which is furnished to the parties under sub-rule (5) shall be incorporated in the record.

(6) Where a case is settled by agreement between the parties, the Commissioner may incorporate in the record any statement made under sub-rule (1) and may utilise such statement for the purpose of justifying his acceptance of, or refusal to accept, the agreement reached.

36. (1) If an applicant states in his application his willingness to abide by the decision of the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall, before commencing the hearing of the case, inquire whether the opposite party is willing to abide by his decision.

(2) If the opposite party agrees to abide by the Commissioner's decision, the fact of his agreement shall be recorded in writing and signed by him.

(3) If the opposite party does not agree to abide by the Commissioner's decision, the party filing the application shall not remain under an obligation so to abide.

37. (1) Where the opposite party claims that if compensation is recovered against him he will be entitled under sub-section (2) of section 12 to be indemnified by a person not being a party to the case, he shall, when first called upon to answer the application, present a notice of such claim to the Commissioner accompanied by the prescribed fee, and the Commissioner shall thereupon issue notice to such person in Form G.

(2) If any person served with notice under sub-rule (1) desires to contest the applicant's claim for compensation or the opposite party's claim to be indemnified, he shall appear before the Commissioner on the date fixed for the hearing of the case or on any date to which the case may be adjourned and, if he so appears, shall have all the rights of a party to the proceedings; in default of so appearing he shall be deemed to admit the validity of any award made against the opposite party and to admit his own liability to indemnify the opposite party for any compensation recovered from him.

(3) In any proceeding in which a notice has been served on any person under sub-rule (1), the Commissioner shall, if he awards compensation, record in his judgment a finding whether the person against whom such claim is made is or is not liable to indemnify the opposite party.

38. (1) Where two or more cases pending before a Commissioner arise out of the same accident, and any issue involved is common to two or more such cases, such cases may, so far as the evidence bearing on such issue is concerned, be heard simultaneously.

(2) Where action is taken under sub-rule (1), the evidence bearing on the common issue or issues shall be recorded on the record of one case, and the Commissioner shall certify under his hand on the records of any such other case the extent to which the evidence so recorded applies to such other case, and the fact that the parties to such other case had the opportunity of being present, and, if they were present, of cross-examining the witnesses.

39. Save as otherwise expressly provided in the Act or these rules, the following provisions of the First Schedule to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, namely, those contained in Order V, rules 9 to 30; Order VII, rules 9 to 18; Order IX; Order XIII; Order XVI, rules 5 to 21; Order XVII, and Order XXIII, rules 1 and 2, shall apply to proceedings before Commissioners, in so far as they may be applicable thereto :

Provided that—

(a) for the purpose of facilitating the application of the said provisions, the Commissioner may construe them with such alterations not affecting the substance as may be necessary or proper to adapt them to the matter before him ;

(b) the Commissioner may, for sufficient reason, proceed otherwise than in accordance with the said provisions, if he is satisfied that the interests of the parties will not thereby be prejudiced.

PART VI.

TRANSFER.

40. (1) A Commissioner transferring any matter to another Commissioner for report in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 21 shall, along with the documents referred to in that sub-section, transmit to such other Commissioner a concise statement, in the form of questions for answer, of the matter on which report is required.

(2) A Commissioner to whom a case is so transferred for report shall not be required to report on any question of law.

(3) Money transmitted by one Commissioner to another in accordance with the said sub-section shall be transmitted either by remittance transfer receipt, or by money order, or by messenger, as the Commissioner transmitting the money may direct.

PART VII.

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES.

41. Where any party to a proceeding is under legal disability by reason only of his age and his age is not less than 15 years, the Commissioner may appoint some suitable person, who consents to the appointment, to represent such party for the purposes of the proceeding, and shall appoint such representative for any party to a proceeding who is under the age of 15 years or is under a legal disability otherwise than by reason of his age.

42. If the Commissioner considers that the interests of any party for whom a representative has been appointed under rule 41 are not being adequately protected by that representative or if a person appointed to act as representative dies, or becomes incapable of acting, or otherwise ceases to act as such, the Commissioner shall appoint in his place another person who consents to the appointment.

PART VIII.

RECORD OF MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT.

43. Memoranda of agreement sent to the Commissioner under sub-section (1) of section 28 shall, unless the Commissioner otherwise directs, be in duplicate and shall be in as close conformity as the circumstances of the case admit with Form H or Form J, as the case may be.

44. (1) On receiving a memorandum of agreement the Commissioner shall, unless he considers that there are grounds for refusing to record the memorandum, fix a date for recording the same, and shall issue a notice in writing in Form K to the parties concerned that in default of objections he proposes to record the memorandum on the date so fixed :

Provided that the notice required to be communicated by proviso (a) to sub-section (1) of section 28 may be communicated orally to any parties who are present at the time when notice in writing would otherwise issue.

(2) On the date so fixed the Commissioner shall record the memorandum unless, after hearing any of the parties who appear and desire to be heard, he considers that it ought not to be recorded :

Provided that the issue of a notice under sub-rule (1) shall not be deemed to prevent the Commissioner from refusing to record the memorandum on the date so fixed even if no objection be made by any party concerned.

(3) If on such date the Commissioner decides that the memorandum ought not to be recorded, he shall inform the parties present of his decision and of the reasons therefor, and, if any party desiring the memorandum to be recorded is not present, he shall send information to that party in Form L.

45. (1) If, on receiving a memorandum of agreement, the Commissioner considers that there are grounds for refusing to record the same, he shall fix a date for hearing the party or parties desiring the memorandum to be recorded and shall inform such party or parties and, if he thinks fit, any other party concerned, of the date so fixed and of the grounds on which he considers that the memorandum should not be recorded.

(2) If the parties to be informed are not present, a written notice shall be sent to them in Form M or Form N, as the case may be, and the date fixed in such notice shall be not less than seven days after the date of the issue of the same.

(3) If on the date fixed under sub-rule (1), the party or parties desiring the memorandum to be recorded show adequate cause for proceeding to the record of the same, the Commissioner may, if information has already been given to all the parties concerned, record the agreement. If information has not been given to all such parties, he shall proceed in accordance with rule 44.

(4) If on the date so fixed the Commissioner refuses to record the memorandum, he shall send notice in Form L to any party who did not receive information under sub-rule (1).

46. (1) If in any case the Commissioner refuses to record a memorandum of agreement, he shall briefly record his reasons for such refusal.

(2) If the Commissioner refuses to record a memorandum of agreement, he shall not pass any order directing the payment of any sum or amount over and above the sum specified in the agreement unless opportunity has been given to the party liable to pay such sum to show cause why it should not be paid.

(3) Where the agreement is for the redemption of half-monthly payments by the payment of a lump sum and the Commissioner considers that the memorandum of agreement should not be recorded by reason of the inadequacy of the amount of such sum as fixed in the agreement, he shall record his estimate of the probable duration of the disablement of the workman together with his reasons for the estimate.

47. In recording a memorandum of agreement the Commissioner shall cause the same to be entered in a register in Form O, and shall cause an endorsement to be entered under his signature on a copy of the memorandum to be retained by him in the following terms, namely:—

“This memorandum of agreement bearing Serial No. _____ of 19 _____ in the register has been recorded this _____ day of _____

(Signature)

Commissioner

(147)

FORM A.

[See Rule 6.]

DEPOSIT OF COMPENSATION FOR FATAL ACCIDENT.

[Section 8 (1) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.]

Compensation amounting to Rs. _____ is hereby presented
for deposit in respect of injuries resulting in the death of _____
residing at _____ which occurred on _____ 19 ____.
His monthly wages are estimated at _____.
He was ^{over}_{under} the age of 15 years at the time of his death.

Employer.

Dated _____ 19 ____.

I desire to be made a party to the proceedings for distribution of
the aforesaid compensation.
To be added if desired.

Employer.

FORM B.

[See Rule 6.]

RECEIPT FOR COMPENSATION.

Deposited under Section 8 (1) of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Book No.

Receipt No.

Register No.

Depositor _____

Deceased workman _____

Date of deposit _____ 19 ____.

Sum deposited Rs. _____

Commissioner.

(148)

FORM C.

[See Rule 6.]

STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS.

[Section 8(4) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.]

Serial No. _____

Depositor _____

Date

Rs.

Amount deposited		
Funeral expenses paid		
Compensation paid to the following dependants.		
Name.	Relationship.	
TOTAL ...		

Commissioner.

Dated _____ 19 .

(149)

FORM D.

[See Rule 9.]

DEPOSIT OF COMPENSATION FOR NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS.

[Section 8(2) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.]

Compensation amounting to Rs. _____ is hereby presented
for deposit in respect of permanent
temporary injuries sustained by _____
residing at _____ which occurred on _____ 19 .

Employer.

Dated _____ 19 .

FORM E.

[See rule 9.]

RECEIPT FOR COMPENSATION.

*Deposited under section 8 (2) of the Workmen's Compensation
Act, 1923.*

Book No.

Receipt No.

Register No.

Depositor _____

In favour of _____

Date of deposit _____ 19 .

Sum deposited Rs. _____

Commissioner.

FORM F.

[See rule 12.]

Date of accident and time if known.	Names of person injured.	Address of person injured.	Cause of injury.	Date and time of notice.	Thumb impression or signature of person giving notice.

FORM G.

[See rule 37.]

NOTICE.

Whereas a claim for compensation has been made by _____ applicant, against _____, and the said _____ has claimed that you are liable under section 12 (2) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, to indemnify him against any compensation which he may be liable to pay in respect of the aforesaid claim, you are hereby informed that you may appear before me on _____ and contest the claim for compensation made by the said applicant or the claim for indemnity made by the opposite party. In default of your appearance you will be deemed to admit the validity of any award made against the opposite party and your liability to indemnify the opposite party for any compensation recovered from him.

Commissioner.

Dated _____ 19 .

(151)

FORM H.

[See rule 43.]

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.

It is hereby submitted that on the _____ day of _____ 19____, personal injury was caused to _____, residing at _____, by accident arising out of and in the course of employment in _____.

The said injury has resulted in temporary disablement to the said workman whereby it is estimated that he will be prevented from earning $\frac{\text{more than}}{\text{any}}$ of his previous wages for a period of _____ months. The said workman has been in receipt of half-monthly payments which have continued from the _____ day of _____ 19____ until the _____ day of _____ 19____, amounting to Rs. _____ in all. The said workman's monthly wages are estimated at Rs. _____.

The workman ^{is over the age of 15 years} will reach the age of 15 years on _____.

It is further submitted that _____ the employer of the said workman, has agreed to pay, and the said workman has agreed to accept the sum of Rs. _____ in full settlement of all and every claim under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in respect of all disablement of a temporary nature arising out of the said accident whether now or hereafter to become manifest. It is therefore requested that this memorandum be duly recorded.

Dated _____

Signature of employer _____

Witness _____

Signature of workman _____

Witness _____

(NOTE.—An application to register an agreement can be presented under the signature of one party, provided that the other party has agreed to the terms. But both signatures should be appended, whenever possible.)

Receipt (to be filled in when the money has actually been paid).

In accordance with the above agreement, I have this day received the sum of Rs. _____

Workman.

Dated _____ 19 ____

The money has been paid and this receipt signed in my presence.

Witness.

NOTE.—This form may be varied to suit special cases, e.g., injury by occupational disease, agreement when workman is under legal disability, etc.

FORM J.

[See rule 43.]

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.

It is hereby submitted that on the _____ day of _____ 19 __, personal injury was caused to _____ residing at _____, by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment in _____

The said injury has resulted in permanent disablement to the said workman of the following nature, namely, _____

The said workman's monthly wages are estimated at Rs. _____.

The workman is ^{over the age of 15 years} _____
will reach the age of 15 years on _____.

The said workman has, prior to the date of this agreement, received the following payment, namely:—

Rs. _____ on _____ Rs. _____ on _____
Rs. _____ on _____ Rs. _____ on _____
Rs. _____ on _____ Rs. _____ on _____

It is further submitted that _____, the employer of the said workman, has agreed to pay, and the said workman has agreed to accept the sum of Rs. _____ in full settlement of all and every claim under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in respect of the disablement stated above and all disablement now manifest. It is therefore requested that this memorandum be fully recorded.

Dated _____.

Signature of employer _____

Witness _____

Signature of workman _____

Witness _____

(NOTE.—Any application to register an agreement can be presented under the signature of one party, provided that the other party has agreed to the terms. But both signatures should be appended, whenever possible.)

Receipt (to be filled in when the
money has actually been paid).

In accordance with the above agreement, I have this day received the sum of Rs. _____



_____ Workman.

Dated _____ 19 _____.

The money has been paid and this receipt signed in my presence.

_____ Witness.

NOTE.—This form may be varied to suit special cases, e.g., injury by occupational disease, agreement when workman is under legal disability, etc.

FORM K.

[See rule 44.]

Whereas an agreement to pay compensation is said to have been reached between _____ and _____

and whereas _____ ^{has}_{have} applied for registration of the agreement under section 28 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, notice is hereby given that the said agreement will be taken into consideration on _____ 19____ and that any objections to the registration of the said agreement should be made on that date. In the absence of valid objections, it is my intention to proceed to the registration of the agreement.

Commissioner.

Dated _____ 19____ .

FORM L.

[See rule 44 and 45.]

Take notice that registration of the agreement to pay compensation said to have been reached between you _____ and _____ on the _____ 19____ has been refused for the following reasons, namely :—

Commissioner.

Dated _____ 19____ .

FORM M.

[See rule 45.]

Whereas an agreement to pay compensation is said to have been reached between _____ and _____ and whereas _____ ^{has}_{have} applied for registration of the agreement under section 28 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923,

and whereas it appears to me that the said agreement ought not to be registered for the following reasons, namely :—

an opportunity will be afforded to you of showing cause on _____ 19 why the said agreement should be registered. If no adequate cause is shown on that date, registration of the agreement will be refused.

Commissioner.

Dated _____ 19 .

FORM N.

[See rule 45.]

Whereas an agreement to pay compensation is said to have been reached between _____ and _____ and whereas _____ ^{has}/_{have} applied for registration of the agreement under section 28 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, and whereas it appears to me that the said agreement ought not to be registered for the following reasons, namely :—

an opportunity will be afforded to the said _____ of showing cause on _____ 19 why the said agreement should be registered. Any representation which you have to make with regard to the said agreement should be made on that date. If adequate cause is then shown, the agreement may be registered.

Commissioner.

Dated _____ 19

(156)

FORM O.

[See rule 47.]

Register of agreements for the year 19 .

Serial No.	Date of agreement.	Date of registration.	Employer.	Workman.	Initials of Commissioner.	Reference to orders rectifying the register.

G. E. SOAMES,

Second Secretary to the Government of Assam.

Dated Binnakandi, 6th June, 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The UNDER-SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

I am directed to inform you that your letter No. 805-10-R., dated the 8th April 1924, together with a copy of letter No. L-859, dated the 17th March 1924, from the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, on the subject of draft rules under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, was considered at a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch of the Association held on the 28th ultimo, and I was instructed to record, that—

“This Committee though they consider the Act premature, have no objection to raise to the draft rules on the grounds that considerably more compensation is now given by most gardens to their employees, in case of accidents than suggested in the rules that light work is always provided for employees incapacitated by minor accidents, and that the industry has never allowed anyone to suffer from an

accident whether this has taken place inside or outside the factory. They would further record that they consider any contemplated Insurance might be run by the Association—funds being provided by a tea cess,—also that they are in complete agreement with the suggestion made by the Indian Tea Association to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, as recorded in their letter dated 13th October 1921, published in the report for that year, which reads as per attached copy of letter”.

SCHEDULE II.

(See Section 2 (1) (n))

List of persons, who, subject to the provisions of section 2(1) (n) are included in the definition of workmen.

The following persons are workmen within the meaning of section 2(1) (n) and subject to the provisions of that section, that is to say, any person who is—

- (i) employed in connection with the service of a tramway as defined in section 3 of the Indian Tramways Act, 1886 ;
or
- (ii) employed within the meaning of clause (2) of section 2 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, in any place which is a factory within the meaning of sub-clause (a) of clause (3) of that section ; or
- (iii) employed within the meaning of clause (d) of section 3 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, in any mine which is subject to the operation of that Act ; or
- (iv) employed as the master of a register ship or as a seaman ;
or
- (v) employed for the purpose of loading, unloading or coaling any ship at any pier, jetty, landing place, wharf, quay, dock, warehouse or shed, on, in or at which steam, water or other mechanical power or electrical power is used ;
or

- (vi) employed in the construction, repair or demolition of—
- (a) a building which is designed to be, is, or has been more than one storey in height above ground level, or
 - (b) a building which is used, has been used, or is designed to be used, for industrial or commercial purposes and is, has been or is designed to be, not less than twenty feet in height measured from ground level to apex of the roof, or
 - (c) a bridge which is, has been or is designed to be more than fifty feet in length, or
- (vii) employed in setting up, repairing, maintaining, or taking down any telegraph or telephone line or post or any overhead electric cable ; or
- (viii) employed in the construction, inspection or upkeep of any underground sewer ; or
- (ix) employed in the service of any fire brigade.

Dated Binnakandi, 6th June 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Your letter No. 570-O dated the 12th April 1924, on the above subject, was considered at a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch held on the 28th ultimo, and I was directed to record the following :—

“ That this Committee, though they consider the Act premature, have no objection to raise to the draft rules on the grounds that considerably more compensation is now given by most gardens to their employees, in case of accidents than suggested in the rules that light work is always provided for employees incapacitated by minor accidents, and that the industry has never allowed anyone to suffer from an accident whether this has taken place inside or outside

the factory. They would further record that they consider any contemplated Insurance might be run by the Association,—funds being provided by a tea cess—also that they are in complete agreement with the suggestion made by the Indian Tea Association to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, as recorded in their letter dated 13th October 1921, published in the Annual Report for that year."

I would add that members of this Committee consider any further expression of views they could offer with reference to the draft rules were covered by suggestions included in letter No. 155-O, dated 13th October 1921, from the Indian Tea Association, to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, as recorded on page 161 of the report of the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association for the year 1921.

The raising of the level of the Sutura Khal Bridge on the Cachar Trunk Road.

Dated Cachar, the 16th April 1924.

From—The MANAGER, Bengal United Tea Company, Limited,
To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am sending with this at the request of Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co., correspondence regarding the bridge over the Sutuaara Khal.

I do not think that my letters are needed as these letters show what I wrote. The position is this, this bridge is some 5 feet lower than the railway bridge which is close to it. At the time this bridge was built there was no garden here. When the Chundowa and Ruttonpore factories were dismantled and Noonapani made the head garden of the Ruttonpore Tea Co., it became necessary to ship through the Taipong Bheel. We suffer great loss every year owing to this bridge. Our boatmen are afraid to bring their boats as they are liable to be held up both ways. I have to give them allowances as well as paying them for the delays. You will see that this has been recognised and promises have been made to raise the bridge. The proposal that Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co. should pay part of the expense is absolutely unfair. Will you take the matter up with Hobson and see what can be done. It is very difficult to estimate the

loss suffered owing to this bridge which is an obstruction to a navigable stream, forbidden by law. I do not think it is necessary for me to write more now. I will give any further details required on hearing from you.

Dated Binnakandi, 6th June 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER Surma Valley and Hill Division.

I am directed to call your attention to correspondence that has taken place during the last 12 or 13 years between the Manager of the Ruttonpore Tea Estate, the Public Works Department and the Chairman, Silchar Local Board, with reference to the raising of the level of the Sutura Khal Bridge on the Cachar Trunk Road, and to suggest that an enquiry might be held into the procedure of the Local Board in dealing with this matter, on the distinct understanding that the Company concerned is prepared to pay part of the necessary alteration. This Company suffers a heavy loss annually due to boats being unable to get under the bridge, which is over a navigable stream.

Letter No. 1717-G., dated Silchar, 11th June 1924.

From—The PERSONAL ASSISTANT to the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to your letter of the 6th June 1924, I am directed by the Commissioner to say that Government have provisionally passed a grant of Rs. 8,000 for the raising of the Sutura Khal bridge on the Cachar Trunk Road in the budget for 1924-25, and an up-to-date estimate for revised administrative approval has been called for from the Executive Engineer, Cachar Division. The money will be handed over to the Silchar Local Board to carry out the work.

Advances in the Recruiting Districts.

No. 578-O., dated Calcutta, 14th April 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to attach herewith for reference copies of a report, dated 5th January 1917, by a Sub-Committee appointed in 1916 to consider, and to report on, certain questions in connection with the cost of sirdari recruitment. In paragraph 12 of the report—pages 3 to 5—the question of advances was dealt with, and a schedule was prescribed showing the Sub-Committee's ideas with regard to the limitation of advances to sirdars in the recruiting districts. It has been suggested that the various amounts specified as maxima advances should be revised, as these are considered to be somewhat out of date, and the General Committee have appointed a small Sub-Committee to examine the question. The following gentlemen have been appointed members of the Sub-Committee, namely:—Mr. A. D. Gordon, M.L.C., Chairman of the Association, as Chairman Mr. F. G. Clarke, (Vice-Chairman of the Association), Mr. D. S. K. Greig, and Mr. J. Lennox. They are asking Mr. J. A. Milligan, I.C.S., Chairman of the Assam Labour Board, to join the Sub-Committee.

2. It seems to the Chairman that, before the Sub-Committee can usefully proceed to examine the question, it is necessary to obtain an expression of opinion regarding the amounts of the advances as stated in the report of the 1916 Sub-Committee, and the changes which should be made in these, and he will be glad if you will be good enough to place the matter before your Committee and to communicate to me in due course an expression of opinion on these points.

Dated Binnakandi, 6th June 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

Your letter No. 578-O., dated the 14th April, on the above subject, was considered at a meeting of the General Committee of

this Branch held on the 25th ultimo, and I was instructed to record the following. From this you will see that though there is some divergence of opinion in this valley, a considerable majority are not in favour of increasing the maximum advance permitted by the agreement of 1916, but are prepared to allow that this may be advisable in other districts :—

“ After considerable discussion, a majority of members were not in favour of increasing the amount of advance to sirdars in the recruiting districts beyond that agreed to, by the Sub-Committee appointed in 1916—at the same time they would record that they fully recognise the difficulty of one district suggesting what advance sirdars should be given by another, and are prepared to give the district representatives on the Tea Districts Labour Association, a free hand to agree to an increase in advances, if after hearing the representatives of other districts, they consider a higher scale is necessary.”

Assam-Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee.

No. 624-O., dated Calcutta, 29th April 1924.

From —The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

You will doubtless remember that, when the above Advisory Committee was constituted, it was arranged for the seat allotted to the Indian Tea Association to be filled by a nominee from the Assam Branch for the first year ending May 1924, the Surma Valley Branch to provide a nominee for the following year, and the two Branch Associations to be subsequently represented in alternate years.

Mr. George Moore of the Jokai (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd., was nominated by the Assam Branch and has served on the Advisory Committee for the first year. Mr. Moore has now gone home on leave and, as the first year expires in May, it is now a matter for the Surma Valley Branch, in accordance with the above arrangement, to nominate a gentleman for the seat vacated by Mr. Moore.

The Agent of the Assam-Bengal Railway has asked me to let him know the name of the gentleman who will represent the Association in place of Mr. Moore, and I shall be much obliged if you will kindly let me have this information at the earliest opportunity as the next meeting of the Advisory Committee is to be held on Friday, 20th June 1924 and the Agent states that the meeting notices are now being issued.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Assam Branch and to the Agent of the Assam-Bengal Railway for information.

Letter dated Binnakandi the 30th May 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch. Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

In reply to your letter No. 624-O., dated the 29th April, I am directed to inform you that Mr. D. Paterson of Aenakhall Tea Estate, Monacherra P. O., Cachar, has been nominated by this Branch to serve on the above Committee as representative of the Indian Tea Association in place of Mr. G. E. Moore.

Unsuitable Cinematograph Shows.

Dated Aenakhall, 19th May 1924.

From—The MANAGER, Bengal United Tea Co., Ltd.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch. Indian Tea Association.

I shall be much obliged if you will bring up the following matter before the meeting of the General Committee on the 28th instant for consideration.

You are probably aware that there are certain cinematograph shows at present touring the Cachar district. I have had recently one at my garden. Some of the pictures shown I consider quite unsuitable for display before tea garden coolies or for that Indians in general. They represent, or assume to represent, in some cases intimate domestic scenes between husband and wife, between the

husband and some other lady, or between the wife and some other gentleman. This depictions are, in the majority of instances, entirely misleading as one can hear from remarks made by persons in the audience.

At the present time I think such pictures are more than usually harmful to us as Europeans. We are all aware that we are in the limelight at the moment and such displays supposedly affectionate scenes are held up to ridicule by our Indian neighbour, and sapping our dignity and honour.

The films I understand have been passed by the censor, but the censor is doing a great deal of harm to us by allowing such films to be exhibited before illiterate people who are entirely ignorant of our social customs. This is also aggravated by the fact that the pictures are not true to life, however, innocent and amusing they may be.

Dated Binnakandi, the 6th June 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley & Hill Division.

I am directed by the General Committee of this Branch of the Association to call your attention to the unsuitability of films shown by Cinematograph operators touring the district, to illiterate audiences and to suggest that some form of local Censorship might be arranged. I attach for your information an extract from a letter recently received from the Manager of a large Company in Cachar, on the subject.

No. 640-P., dated Silchar, 21st July 1924.

From—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to your letter of the 6th June 1924 about unsuitable cinematograph films I apprehend that your objections relate to exhibition of films taking place outside tea estates.

2. It cannot be denied that in the past many films have been on exhibition to which objection might reasonably be taken. This matter is engaging the attention of the Government of India and orders have already been given stiffening the censorship. Those intended for exhibition in Assam are censored by the Bengal Board of censors the members of which are set forth in Assam Government Notification No. 2206-G.J., of 8th May 1924. This Board you will see is fully representative and a better state of things may now be looked forward to. Further precautions are also being taken against the alteration of films after they have been passed by the Board of censors.

3. For this reason I think it will not be necessary to set up any local censorship and there will be great difficulty in a Board of this kind being able to carry out its duties effectively, for instances, it would be a matter of great inconvenience for the members of the Board to meet together at frequent intervals to carry out their duties in any place or places which might be selected.

4. I would also suggest that the more films that the ignorant people see the less likely are they to accept them as representing facts of actual life.

Indian Boilers Act, 1923 (V. of 1923).

The 3rd April 1924.

No. 777-R,—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923 (V of 1923), the Governor in Council is pleased to appoint the following persons to be Inspectors of Boilers for the Province of Assam for the purposes of the said Act, with effect from the 1st January 1924 :—

1. Mr. Arthur John Smith.
2. „ David Livingstone Dick.
3. „ George Alexander Edwards.
4. „ Stewart Ollar.
5. „ Robert Shepherd.
6. „ Tom Nixon Crosby.
7. „ Samuel Spiller Rickets.
8. „ Edward George Blackford.

9. „ Wilnot W. B. Rowbottom.
10. „ Robert S. Lawrenson.
11. „ Donald Victor Hannah.
12. Major Robert Grant.

The 3rd April 1924.

No. 776-R.—In exercises of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923 (V of 1923), the Governor in Council is pleased to appoint the gentlemen named below to be temporary Inspectors of Boilers for the Province of Assam, with effect from 1st February 1924 :—

Mr. Alexander Hay Meldrum Husband.
„ William Nairn.
„ Thomas Henry Gallacher.

The 3rd April 1924.

No. 775-R.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 5 of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923 (V of 1923), the Governor in Council is pleased to appoint Mr. J. Cowan to be the Chief Inspector of Boilers for the Province of Assam, with effect from the 1st January 1924.

(Sd.) G. E. SOAMES,

Second Secy. to the Govt. of Assam.

Memo. No. 478-84-G.

Dated Silchar, 3rd May 1924.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, for information.

(Sd.) R. FRIEL,

Deputy Commissioner, Cachar.

Indian Income Tax Act, 1922.

The 19th May 1924.

No. 3071-F.M.—The following Resolution issued by the Government of India in the Finance Department is republished for general information :—

No. 1280, dated Simla, the 28th April 1924 Income-Tax.—The Central Board of Revenue have had under consideration for some time past the question of simplifying the procedure for dealing with claims for refund of income-tax under Section 48 of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, from resident in England. At present under rule 39 of the Indian Income-Tax Rules, 1922, applications for the refund of tax when the applicant is not resident in India are to be made :—

- (i) to the Income-Tax Officer of the district or area in which he was last charged to Indian income-tax when so resident, or
- (ii) if he has never been so resident, to the Income-Tax Officer of the district or area where the income-tax for the refund of which application is made was deducted.

It sometimes happens that claimants for refund resident in the United Kingdom including the Irish Free State derive their Indian income in three or four different provinces and have thus to submit applications for refund to three or four Income-Tax Officers and each such application has to be accompanied by a return of the total income of the applicant in British India. This arrangement is inconvenient and cumbrous. The Board has accordingly arranged that all such claims will in future be dealt with by the High Commissioner for India. The following instructions are published for general information :—

1. All persons resident in the United Kingdom including the Irish Free State should submit applications for refund to the High Commissioner for India, under Section 48 of the Indian Income-Tax Act, 1922. Persons who are generally resident in India and are only temporarily in the United Kingdom including the Irish Free State will not be treated as persons resident in the United Kingdom including the Irish Free State for the purposes of these instructions.

2. The applications for refund should be in the form prescribed by rule 36 of the Indian Income-Tax Rules, 1922, and should as prescribed by rules 37 and 38 of the rules accompanied by—
 - (i) a return of the total income of the applicant in British India in the form prescribed by Section 22 of the Indian Income-Tax Act, and
 - (ii) certificates prescribed by rules 13 and 14 under Section 18(9) or Section 20 of the Act in respect of interest on securities or dividends from companies.
3. The rate at which refund will be granted to the applicant will be the difference between the rate applicable to the claimants total income and the maximum rate of income-tax fixed by the Indian Finance Act, for the year in which the dividend was declared or the interest on securities was drawn.
4. In order to guard against the possibility of double refunds, the High Commissioner for India will after paying the refund send a list of such refunds to the Central Board of Revenue.
5. All certificates prescribed by Sections 18(9) and 20 of the Act which are presented by applicants with claim for refund of tax, to the High Commissioner for India in England will be duly cancelled.

This arrangement will come into force from the 1st June 1924.

G. E. SOAMES,

Second Secretary to the Government of Assam.

Assam Labour Board Representatives.

The 5th May 1924.

No. 2843-F.—The following notification by the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour is republished :—

No. L.-1053, dated Simla, the 22nd April 1924—(*Inter-provincial Migration*).—In pursuance of section 116A, sub-section (4), of the

Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, as amended by the Assam Labour and Emigration (Amendment) Act, 1915, the Governor-General in Council is pleased to approve of the election, with effect from the 1st May 1924, of the following gentlemen as members of the Assam Labour Board as representatives of the bodies noted against each :—

Names of Members.			Bodies whom they represent.
1.	Mr. R. Baker	...	Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and Indian Tea Association, London.
2.	„ A. D. Gordon, M.L.C.	...	
3.	„ W. H. Marr	...	
4.	„ R. A. Towler	...	
5.	„ D. S. K. Greig	...	
6.	„ A. S. Macalister	...	
7.	„ G. Mackrell	...	
8.	„ J. Lennox	...	
9.	Lieutenant-Colonel H. Garbett, V.D.	...	Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association.
10.	Mr. W. Douglas	...	
11.	„ A. Chrystall	...	
12.	„ F. V. Smith	...	
13.	„ E. W. Hobson, M.L.C.	...	Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.
14.	„ A. McCreath	...	
15.	„ J. C. Dawson, M.L.C.	...	

G. E. SOAMES,

Second Secretary to the Government of Assam.

Labour Rules Agreement for the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys.

Circular No. 56, dated Calcutta, 14th December 1923.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—All SIGNATORIES to the Labour Rules Agreement for
the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys.

In view of the expiry of the Labour Rules Agreement on 15th October the question of a renewal of the agreement for a further term has been under the consideration of the General Committee, in consultation with the Assam and Surma Valley Branches. It

has been decided to recommend the renewal of the agreement in similar terms with the exception that, instead of making it for a definite period of three years, provision should be made for the agreement to continue until six calendar months' notice of termination has been given by a signatory.

2. The Committee think that the renewal of the agreement as suggested will be generally accepted and I am directed to send you herewith copies for signature on behalf of concerns in your agency. It is not necessary to sign a separate copy for each concern, but the names of the individual concerns becoming signatory must of course be stated on the signed copy, which should be returned to me for record. Additional copies of the agreement may be obtained here on application.

3. A list of the signatories of the old agreement, showing whether the agreement was signed in India or in London, will be found on pp. 164 to 185 of the Annual Report of the Association for 1921.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH ENTICEMENT OF
LABOUR FROM TEA GARDENS AND OTHER CONCERNS IN THE
BRAHMAPOOTRA VALLEY AND SURMA VALLEY.

The proprietors or accredited* representatives of the several companies or concerns who have signed copies of this Agreement do and each of them doth by these presents mutually bind the said companies and concerns to abide by the following Rules and Provisions which are aimed at discouraging and preventing the enticement, harbouring, detention or employment (hereafter called "offences") of garden or other coolies without the consent of the companies and concerns by or for whom such coolies may have been imported recruited or employed and at prescribing certain fines or penalties by way of damages for infringement of such Rules and Provisions, which Rules and Provisions are framed and subscribed on the assurance or assumption that all Proprietors, Boards of Directors, and Managing or other Agents or Secretaries of the said companies and concerns may be depended on to enforce due compliance with all awards made in pursuance of such Rules and Provisions, their active support in that behalf being deemed essential to the same being successfully carried out.

For the purposes of this agreement the following definitions will obtain :—

- (1) *Offence*.—A person is guilty of an offence against these rules who employs or harbours or entices any coolie who is claimable, under these rules, by another concern.
- (2) *Defaulter* means any free coolie who has absconded while under *bona fide* advances to his concern or a coolie recruited by one concern who has proceeded direct from the recruiting district to another concern without reporting to and obtaining the sanction of the first concern.
- (3) *Bona fide advances* mean advances made by a concern or its recognised agents and do not include shop-keeper's bills or line debts.
- (4) *To employ and/or employment* shall include special contract work and/or work under contractors engaged by and/or on the concern.

It is agreed that—

1. All coolies living within the area of a concern's grant or premises are to be considered coolies of such concern whether regularly employed or not, but coolies living in the vicinity of a concern and outside its boundaries shall not be considered as coolies of such concern unless under agreement to the concern.

2. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain any coolie (whether under contract or not) who has been imported by another concern, within the period of 3 years after importation, it being understood, however, that no claim under this rule shall be made or entertained unless duly formulated within two calendar years after the coolie has left the importing concern.

3. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain any coolie other than mentioned in Rule 2 who may be under Act XIII agreement to another concern, as shown by such concern's Cash and Agreement Books, it being understood, however, that no claim under this rule shall be made or entertained unless duly formulated within two calendar years after the coolie has left the concern to which he was under contract.

4. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain a coolie who is a defaulter to another concern, it being understood, however, that no claim under this rule shall be made or entertained unless duly formulated within two calendar years after such coolie has defaulted.

5. No subscriber to these rules shall directly or indirectly entice or endeavour to entice any coolies employed on another concern from such employment.

6. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain any coolie who has been imported *bona fide* by him and has been employed as a coolie and or as a recruiter, but who, it is proved, was either originally imported, or employed under Act XIII agreement, or employed as a free coolie, by another concern.

Should any coolie be employed, harboured or detained under the above circumstances no proceedings shall be taken under Rules 2, 3 and 4, but the coolie and his or her wife, husband, child or children shall be claimable under this rule, on tender of the recruiting expenses as provided hereunder in Rule 8.

No claim shall lie in any case where such coolie has been employed as a recruiter in respect of any coolie or coolies so recruited other than the wife or husband child or children of the recruiting coolie as the case may be.

No claim shall lie in any case under this rule unless made within two years from the time such coolie left the claiming concern.

7. The respective penalties for breaches of the foregoing Rules No. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall not exceed the maximum penalties respectively laid down for breaches of these respective rules in the Schedule hereto. Such sum or sums as may be awarded under this Schedule shall be in addition to any other sum, properly claimed under Rule 8 as recruiting expenses.

8. In all cases in which under these Rules (save as hereafter provided in cases coming under the provisions of Rule 6) coolies are properly claimable from one concern by another and are returned to the claiming concern the claiming concern shall not be responsible to pay the concern from which such coolies return, any sums of

money advanced or any bonuses or other like sums paid by such latter concern to such coolies. In cases of claims under Rule 6, where the recruiting coolie and his or her wife husband child or children are returned to the claiming concern the claiming concern shall be liable to pay the actual recruiting expenses paid by the concern from which such coolies are claimed in respect of such coolies.

9. Every complaint as to the alleged infringement of the foregoing rules or as to an offence of the kind or nature in such rules indicated shall be in writing signed by the Superintendent or Manager in charge who is directly responsible to the Agents or Proprietors of the complaint concern and addressed and delivered or sent to the like Superintendent or Manager of the concern complained against and every such complaint shall state :—

(1) In the case of an alleged infringement of either Rules 2, 3, 4 or 6 as above, such of the following particulars as are applicable to the particular case :—

(a) All particulars necessary for the identification of the coolies who are the subject matter of the complaint.

(b) The period, if any, of the coolie's non-expired service compulsory or otherwise :

Such complaint shall also contain a statement that in the event of the non-return of the coolies the following sums will be claimed, viz. :

(c) The amount of penalty.

(d) The cost of importing and recruiting the coolies when claimed under Rule 2.

(e) The amount of advances outstanding when claimed under Rules 3 and 4.

(2) In the case of an alleged infringement of Rule 5 the grounds which it is alleged constitute the alleged offence.

10. The recipient of any such complaint within three days from the receipt thereof, shall, if the complaint be made under Rules 2, 3 or 4 hereof, and in the event of his not repudiating the same either—

(a) Pay or remit or settle the amount claimed in which case he may retain the coolie, or

- (b) Forthwith eject (in the presence of complainant's representative if so required) such coolie with all his belongings from his concern.

11. If the complaint be made under Rule 6, and in the event of his not repudiating the same he shall forthwith eject (in the presence of complainant's representative if so required) such coolie with his or her wife, husband, child or children and all his belongings from his concern.

12. In the event of the recipient of any such complaint (whether made under Rules 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6) repudiating responsibility therefor—

- (c) He shall deliver or send to the complainant a written statement recording the grounds on which he disputes liability in the whole or in part, as the case may be, provided that if he adopts this course his liability shall not be affected should the coolies or any of them abscond before final award or payment thereof.

13. If the recipient of any such complaint should fail or neglect to take either of these courses, he shall stand liable for the full amount of the claim and/or penalties provided by the rules as the case may be.

14. If the dispute be not otherwise adjusted, the complainant may send—

- (a) to the Secretary of the Assam Branch :—

- (i) when the complainant concern and the concern complained against are both in the Brahmaputra Valley ;
(ii) when the complainant concern is in the Surma Valley and the concern complained against is in the Brahmaputra Valley ;

- (b) to the Secretary of the Surma Valley Branch :—

- (i) when the complainant concern and the concern complained against are both in the Surma Valley ;
(ii) when the complainant concern is in the Brahmaputra Valley and the concern complained against is in the Surma Valley ;

under registered post, a full copy of his complaint and of the other side's statement to be adjudicated upon by a Court of Arbitration to be constituted in accordance with the following Rules and Bye-Laws, viz. :—

RULES FOR ARBITRATIONS.

- (a) The Court shall be constituted by the Branch Committee on receipt of the papers which must contain the full complaint as set out in Rule 9.
- (b) The Court shall consist of three Arbitrators who shall be selected by the Branch Committee from any recognised and impartial tea planters or local representatives of concerns other than tea concerns who are willing to serve.
- (c) The Court appointed as aforesaid shall elect their own Chairman.
- (d) The Court may call for such evidence whether oral or documentary as they require to enable them to deal with any matter coming before them, and the parties to the arbitration or their agents or representatives shall if required submit to examination on oath or affirmation in relation to the matters in dispute and shall produce before the Court all books, papers, accounts or other documents in their possession or power which may be required or called for and do all other things which the Court may require.
- (e) The decision of the majority of the Court shall be taken as the decision of the Court.
- (f) The names of the arbitrators constituting the Court shall not be ordinarily disclosed to the parties nor shall the parties be entitled to such information as of right but the whole question shall be in the absolute discretion of the Branch Committee.
- (g) The non-disclosure of the said names shall not in any case affect the validity of the proceedings or any Award made therein nor afford any ground for objection to the filing of the Award.
- (h) If any Arbitrator declines or fails to act or dies or becomes incapable of acting the Branch Committee may substitute a new Arbitrator in his place and the Court so

reconstituted shall proceed with the arbitration with liberty to act on the record of the proceedings as then existing (if any) or to commence the arbitration *de novo*, as they may decide.

- (i) The Court may at their own instance before making their final Award and at the expense of the parties consult, refer to and act on the advice recommendations or suggestions of any two impartial tea planters or local representatives of concerns other than tea concerns not being in any way interested in or connected with either concern involved in the dispute.
- (j) The Court may also at the like expense of the parties consult and take the advice of Solicitors or Counsel upon any question of law evidence, practice or procedure arising in the course of reference, or as to the form and nature of their Award.
- (k) The Court shall make their Award in writing within 30 days from the time of entering upon the reference or within such extended time as they may notify. Such Award shall be signed by the Court and when completed a copy shall be sent by them to the Branch Committee who shall forward a copy to each of the parties interested.
- (l) The parties shall in all matters abide by and obey the Award which shall be binding on the parties and their respective representatives.
- (m) Alteration in the constitution of any Firm Company or Concern being a party to the arbitration either by resignation death or in any other manner either before or after making the award shall not operate as a revocation of the submission or invalidate any proceedings on the arbitration or any Award.
- (n) Neither of the parties shall bring or prosecute any suit or proceedings whatever against the Court or any member thereof for and in respect of the matters in dispute or any of them nor any such suit or proceedings against the other party except for the purpose of enforcing the Award.
- (o) The decision of the Court shall be final. All procedure not otherwise hereby provided for shall be regulated

by the Court and no objection shall be taken or entertained by reason of any irregularity in procedure.

- (p) The Court shall have power to award a sum to cover costs and expenses of any party to the arbitration and to direct by and to whom the same shall be paid.
- (q) Subject as aforesaid the Court shall not by their decision or Award impose larger sums by way of damages than those prescribed according to the scale and under the provisions in the Schedule hereof.

15. After constitution of the Court as aforesaid the Branch Committee shall give notice by registered post to both parties of the place and date and time when and where the dispute will be investigated and either party may appear in person or by any tea garden Superintendent or Manager or by the local representative of a concern other than a tea concern to conduct his case but neither side shall be at liberty to be represented by counsel, attorney or any legal adviser.

16. Upon receipt of such notice the concern complained against shall have the right to forward to the Secretary a further copy of his written statement of the grounds upon which liability is disputed.

17. Failing satisfactory settlement or compliance with an Award, by the Superintendent or Manager of the concern involved, the case first shall be reported for action to the Proprietors, Boards or Agents concerned. If no satisfactory action is taken within sixty days after such report by the Proprietors, Boards or Agents of the concern involved, the other party shall be at liberty to take such steps to enforce his Award under the Civil Procedure Code or otherwise as may be open to him.

18. In the case of a company or private concern being signatory to these Rules, it is understood that the same apply to all branches of the said company or private concern, whether devoted to the culture of tea or other produce or to other industrial pursuits.

19. These Provisions shall be binding on any other tea company or concern on whose behalf these presents or a copy thereof be hereafter signed by its proprietor or accredited representative.

20. This agreement shall continue until terminated by six calendar months' notice in writing, such notice to be addressed to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERED TO.

1. For an offence against Rule 2 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 300 for each coolie for the first offence, and of Rs. 500 for each coolie for a second or subsequent offence, such penalty to be in addition to any sum awarded by way of damages under Clause 4 hereof.

2. For an offence against Rule 3 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 200 for each coolie for the first offence and of Rs. 300 for each coolie for a second or subsequent offence, such penalty to be in addition to any sum awarded by way of damages under Clause 4 hereof.

3. For an offence affecting any coolie who is a defaulter to another concern as provided under Rule 4, the penalty will be Rs. 50 for each coolie in addition to payment of all *bona fide* advances shown against such coolie in the concern books and such sum as may be awarded by way of damages under Clause 4 hereof.

4. For an offence against Rule 5 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 500 for the first offence and of Rs. 1,000 for a second or subsequent offence, irrespective of any penalties which may have been previously enforced under Rules 2, 3 and 4.

5. For failure to comply with the terms of Rule 6 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 1,000 for each offence.

Circular No. 21, dated Calcutta, 24th July 1924.

From—The Indian Tea Association,

To—All SIGNATORIES and NON-SIGNATORIES to the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys Labour Rules Agreement.

Labour Rules.

The accompanying statement showing the position of signatories to the Labour Rules Agreement in the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys is published for the information of all signatories and non-signatories. Signatories to the Agreement represent approximately 90% and 86% of the total acreage under tea in each of the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys respectively and this statement is as complete as the information available here admits. As discrepancies may be found in it, I shall be glad to receive notification of any inaccuracies with a view to rectifying these in a subsequent issue.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Ahmedy Tea Estate ...	.....	...	176	
All India Tea and Trading Co., Ltd.	.....	...	...	312
Allynugger Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I & L.	...	2,613
Alyno-Pathemara Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	967
Amalgamated Tea Estates Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	5,393	324
Amaranagar Tea Estate ...	.....	...	...	100
Amgoorie Tea Estates, Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	3,314	
Amluckie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	851	
Amo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I & L.	...	1,324
Anandabag Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co.	I.	75	
Anglo-American Direct Trading Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	3,171	636
Annapurna Tea Co., Ltd. ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	...	287
Arcuttipore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. Mackilloan & Co.	I.	...	839
Aryan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	..	200
Assam Co., Ltd. ...	Kilburn & Co.	I.	12,546	
Assam Docars Tea Co., Ltd. (Orangajuli)	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	992	
Assam Estates, Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	823	
Assam Frontier Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	L.	8,512	
Assam Frontier Tea Seed Syndicate	.....	...	...
Assam Indigo, Ltd. ...	Mrs. L. G. Tuns- tall.	...	...
Assam Proper Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Chatterjee, Gangulee & Co.	...	120	
*Assam Riys & Trading Co., Ltd.	Agent & General Manager.	I.	500	
		

* Includes only Bogapani Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Assam Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd. . .	Industrial Agency, Ltd.	...	...	105
Assam United Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	1,254	
Assam Valley Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	...	375	
Attabaree Tea Estate ...	J. Mackillican & Co.	I.	784	
Attareekhat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	2,919	
Aylabarree Tea Estate ...	National Trading Syndicate	...	...
Badulipar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	3,278	
Baghjan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	320	
Baghmari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	458	
Bahoni Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	200	
Balijan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	1,076	
Balimara & Balijan Tea Concern.	Balmer, Lawrie & Co., Ltd.	...	212	
Baloma Tea Estate ...	.....	...	205	
Ballacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. S. & Co.	I.	...	93
Bamgaon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	1,040	
*Baragara Tea Estate ...	G. W. & Co.	...	...
Baracora (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	...	4,06
Sarampur Tea Estate ...	K. Ahmed	...	...
Barduar Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	370	
Bargang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,716	
Barguree Tea Estate ...	.....	...	...
Bashbaree Tea Estate ...	.....	...	60	
Basmatia Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	302	
Bateli Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	400	
		

* Is a division of the Gour Nitte Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Bazaloni Tea Co.,	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	501	
Behubor Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	1,070	
Bengal Tea Co., Ltd.	Bengal Tea Co.	...	200	
Bengal United Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	I.	1,088	4,547
Betjan Tea Co., Ltd.	G. A. & Co.	I.	435	
†Bettybari Tea Co., Ltd.	(See note below)	...	...
Bhamun Tea Co., Ltd.	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	550	
Bhootia Chang Tea Co., Ltd.	Barry & Co.	I.	884	
Bhubandhar Tea Co., Ltd.	Macneill & Co.	I.	...	652
Bhubrighat Tea Co., Ltd.	B. J. Lamb	L.	...	860
Bidyanagar Tea Estate	Martin & Co.	...	...	1,078
Bijlijan Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	50	
Birkmyre Bros. (Kamrup Jute Cultivation)	.....	...	...
Bishnath Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	3,504	
Bogabagh Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	408	
Bogidholla Tea Estate	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	351	
Bokakhat Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	487	
Bonmali Tea Estate	National Agency Co., Ltd.	-	250	
Borahi Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	441	
Borasali Tea Co., Ltd.	I. P. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	...
Borbheel Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	698	
Bordubi Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,206	
Borelli Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	2,113	
Borhat Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	1,611	
Borholla Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	Barlow & Co.	I.	...	
Borjan Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,042	
		

† Is merged in the Texpore Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Bormajan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I.	450	
Borokai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	...	853
Boroi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	743	
Borpani Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Villiers, Ltd.	...	300	
Borpatra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	...
Borpukhuri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	576	
Borsoikota Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	250	
Borting Tea Estate ...	.....	...	165	
Bosabarie Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	180	
Brae & Chingoor Tea Estates, Ltd.	Burlew & Co.	I.	2,034	
Brahmancheria Tea Estate ...	.....	...	...
Brahmaputra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	4,842	
Brahmaputra-Himalaya Tea Co., Ltd.	Martin & Co.	...	310	
British Assam Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	L.	1,332	
British Indian Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	996	908
Budderpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	500
Budla Beta Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	L.	2,709	
Bukhial Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	313	
Burdwar Tea & Timber Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	270	
Burkhola Tea Estate ...	.....	...	...	200
Burrapahar Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	55	
Cachar & Dooars Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	I.	...	2,747
Cachar Native Joint Stock Co., Ltd.	B. V. Gupta (Manager)	...	...	1,180
Central Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. S. & Co.	I.	...	1,460
Chandpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.	L.	...	1,539
Chandmari Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	140	
Chandypore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. S. & Co.	I.	...	780
		

NAME	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Chapani Tea Estate ...	.....	...	50	
Chapanullah Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	268	
Charidwar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	L.	382	
Chargola Tea Association, Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	...	3,960
Cheerie Valley Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.	L.	...	588
Chenijan Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	160	
Chicknagool Tea Estate ...	.....	...	...	180
Chincorie Tea Co., (1920) Ltd.	Villiers, Ltd.	...	...	500
Chonsali Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	300	
Chowkidingi Tea Estates, Ltd.	S. F. & Co., Ltd.	...	765	
Chulwa Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	3,978	
Chundeecherra Tea Co. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	555
Clarence Tea Estate ...	.....	...	...
Clevedon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	488
Consolidated Tea & Lands Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	5,248	15,978
Cooliekoosie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	493	
Corramore Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	980	
Cossipore Tea Co., Ltd.	Macneill & Co.	I.	...	659
Craigpark Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.	L.	...	408
Cutlacherra Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	...	273
Dahingcapar Tea Estate ...	B. D. & Co.	I.	562	
Dalhousie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I.	700	
Dahowjan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	239	
Dauracherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co.	I.	...	576
Deamoolie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	1,303	
Debapur Tea Estate ...	.....	...	...
Deckiajulie Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	390	
		

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Deeleehie Merbeel Estate ...	.....	...	178	
†Dehing Estates ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	...	...
Dejoo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	915	
Dejoo Valley Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	255	
Dekhari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	1,738	
Derby Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	...	1,153
*Desang Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	...	...
Dessai & Parbutin Tea Co., Ltd.	G. H. & Co.	I.	1,418	
Deundi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	...	2,849
Dhamai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	...	1,708
Dhelakhat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	987	
Dhendai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	L.	679	
Dhoolie Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	765	
†Dhullie Estate ...	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	...	...
Dhunseri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	492	
Dibru Darrang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	I.	586	
Dibru Doars Tea Co., Ltd. ...	I. P. A. & Co., Ltd.	...	1,600	
Dildarpur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	...	325
Dilkhooch Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	...	479
Dilkhusa Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Pandit & Co.	...	...
Dimakusi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	658	
Dixa Tea Estate ...	.....	...	...	50
Dolaguri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	500	
Doloi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	...	600
		

† Now consist of Bhamun Hingrijan, Khowang, Rajghar and Tinkong Companies.

* Incorporated in the Jorehat Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Dohoo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	...	1,449
Doodputlee Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	...	1,444
Doolahat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	873	
Dooloogram Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	447	1,185
Doom Dooma Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	5,640	
Doria Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	L.	1,008	
Doyang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	520	
Doyapore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. G. & Co.	I.	...	423
Dr. D. O'Briens Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	506	
Duckigole Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	...
Dufflaghur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	600	
Dulcherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	...	570
Durgabari Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	80	
Durganagar Tea Estate ...	...	...	...	105
Durrang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Kilburn & Co.	I.	570	
Eastern Assam Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.	L.	3,330	
East India Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,552	
East India & Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	I.	...	2,180
Eastern Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	1,103
Eastern Hindusthan Tea Co., Ltd.	Pandit & Co.	...	...	150
Eastern Tea & Trading Co., Ltd.	I. P. A. Co., Ltd.	...	500	
Eastern Tea Corporation, Ltd.	.....	...	...	150
Empire of India & Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	5,769	
Endogram Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	756
		

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Erabigool & Binodini Tea Estates.	J. B. Marshall, Manager.	...	...	712
Farkating Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	105	
Ghazipore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	570
Ghoir Allie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	510	
Gillapukri Tea & Seed Co., Ltd.	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	400	
Gingia Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	705	
Gobindpore Tea Estate ...	G. C. Dutt.	...	...	900
Golpur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	442	
Gosaiebarrie Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	152	
Greenwood Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	1,730	
Gour Nitte Tea Co., Ltd. (Bharagara).	G. W. & Co.	...	325	
Grob Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	1,115	
Halena Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	1,000	
Halisabari Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	...	
*Halmari Tea Estate ...	(See foot note)	I.	...	
Halmirah Tea Estate ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	491	
Halmiramukh Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	160	
Hapjan Parbat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Villiers, Ltd.	...	220	
Harish Nagar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	...	1,000
Harmutty Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	833	
Hatijan Tea Seed Syndicate...	.....	...	...
Hattigor Tea Estate ...	.....	...	60	
Hattikhira Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	2,730
†Hautley Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	...
Haveda Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	75	
		

* Proprietor Amrawati Tea Co., Ltd., Jalpaiguri.

†Is a division of the Badalipur Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Hill Tipperah Tea Syndicate, Ld.	Planters Society	...	...	275
Hindusthan Tea & Fishery, Ld.	.....	...	...	310
Hongrija Tea Co., Ld. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ld.	I.	595	
Hograjuli (Assam) Tea Co., Ld.	A. Y. & Co., Ld.	I.	406	
Hoolungoorie Tea Co., Ld. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ld.	I.	1,295	
Huroochorai Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	...	
Hunwal Tea Co., Ld. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	1,514	
Imperial Tea Co., Ld. ...	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	2,316	2,200
Indeswar Tea & Trading Co., Ld.	G. C. Dutt	...	...	596
Indian National Trading & Planting Corporation, Ld.	I. P. Agency Co., Ld.	...	100	
Indian Tea Corporation, Ld. Julia Tea Estate. Mandakata Tea Estate.	S. W. & Co.	...	2.0	
Indian Tea Co. of Cachar, Ld.	B. B. & Co., Ld.	I. & L.	...	1,304
Indian Tea & Commerce, Ld.	Planters Guild,	...	...	310
Industrial Development Co., Ld.	Sylhet Tea Syndi- cate (Committee).	...	...	264
Iringmara Tea Co., Ld. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	...	358
Ira Bheel Tea Co., Ld. ...	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	...	905
Itakhoolie Tea Co., Ld. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	I.	555	
Jagdnar Tea Estate ...	Ditto	...	100	
Jaipur Tea Co., Ld. ...	B. L. & Co., Ld.	L.	1,114	
Jalalnagar Tea Estate ...	All-India Tea & Trading Co., Ld.	...	...
Jalinga Tea Co., Ld. ...	D. B. & Co., Ld.	I. & L.	...	750
Jatlibari Tea Co., Ld. ...	G. A. & Co.	I.	834	
		

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both).	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Jetinga Valley Tea Co., Ltd. ..	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	2,584
Jhanzie Tea Association, Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	4,666	
Jhiringhat (Native) Tea Concern	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	...	352
Jokai (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	11,484	
Joonktoolee Tea Co., Ltd. ...	K. B. & Co.	I.	575	
†Jorehaut Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	10,025	
Kacharigaon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	718	
Kakadanga Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	...	
Kalacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	463
Kalinagar Tea Estate ...	Bharat Samity, Ltd.	...	...	642
Kaliti Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	400
Kalline Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	...	1,354
Kallinugger & Khoreel Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	I.	...	586
Kamrup Tea Association (Amchong).	.....	...	400	
Kanan Devan Hills Produce Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	3,205	
Karimganj Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Eastern Commer- cial Union.	...	...	375
Kathoni Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	100	
Khonajan Tea Estate ...	.....	...	110	
Khonikor Tea Estate ...	Barry & Co.	I.	426	
Khongea Tea Estate. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	594	
Khowang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	572	
Killing Valley Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	579	
Kingsley Golaghat Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	I.	1,677	
Kirtikona Tea Co., Ltd. ..	Mitra & Co.	...	...
		

†Includes Noahabari Tea Estate.

NAME	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both).	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Koliabur & Seconee Tea Co., Ld.	B. D. & Co., Ld.	I.	1,231	
Kookecherra Tea Co., Ld. ...	D. B. & Co., Ld.	I. & L.	.....	1,779
Koomsong Tea Co., Ld. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,000	
Koshogan Tea Seed Syndicate	.....	...	95	
Koyah Tea Co., Ld. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	709
Kuhum Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....
Kunchanpore Tea Co., Ld. ...	D. B. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	547
Kuturi Tea Co., (1920) Ld. ...	Villiers, Ld.	...	300	
Kyang Tea Seed Estate ...	S. W. & Co.	...	.....
Lackatoorah Tea Co., Ld. ...	Mackillican & Co.	I.	.....	1,178
Ladoigore Tea Estate ...	.....	...	20	
*Lalchand Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	...	.....
Lalkura Tea Co., Ld. ...	Mackillican & Co.	...	110	
Langboi Tea Estate ...	.....	...	75	
Lankashi Tea and Seed Estate	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	120	
Latasil Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Ledo Tea Co., Ld. ...	D. B. & Co., Ld.	I.	989	
Lepetkatta Tea Co., Ld. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	951	
Letekoojan Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	470	
Limbuguri Tea Co., Ld. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	I.	599	
Longai Valley Tea Co., Ld. ...	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	1,831
Loobah Tea Co., Ld. ...	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	1,166
Looksan Tea Co., Ld. ...	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	904
‡Luckicherra Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ld.	...	.....
Lukwah Tea Co., Ld. ...	B. D. & Co., Ld.	I.	1,255	
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ld.	O. S. & Co.	I.	.....	5,092
		

*Lalchand Tea Estate is a division of the Deundi Tea Co., Ld.

‡Luckicherra is included in Duckingole Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both).	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Luskerpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	L.	.....	1,015
Luxmi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Davenport & Co.	...	550	
Madarkhat Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	166	
Madhapur Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....
Madhuting Tea Estate ...	.....	...	125	
Madoora Tea Estate ...	...	...	.....	176
Mahora Tea Estate ...	...	...	.....
Majagram Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	1,280
Makum (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	2,026	
Majuli Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	3,761	
Mangaldai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	885	
Manipur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. A. & Co.	I.	.....	528
Mantala Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	.....	350
Marangi Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	208	
Maulvie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Kilburn & Co.	I.	.....	500
Mazdehee Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L. & I.	.....	660
Mazengah Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....
Meekla Nuddy Saw Mills Co., Ltd.	.....	...	.....
*Medlajan Tea Estate ...	I. F. Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Meleng Estate ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	1,643	
Methoni Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	341	
Meruahola Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
†Mertinga Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Mirzapore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	542
Mittunguri Seed Garden ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	65	
Moabund Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	3,499	
		

*Is a division of the Borasali Tea Co., Ltd.

†Mertinga is a division of the Deundi Tea Co. Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both)	APREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Modhupur Tea Estate	.....	...	225	
Mohemmu, Ld.	... D. B. & Co., Ld.	I.	693	
Mohamedpur Tea Estate	... ..	...	.....	332
Mokalburi Tea Co., Ld.	... Barry & Co.	L.	702	
Mokruing Tea Co., Ld.	... National Agency Co., Ld.	...	480	
Monkhoosi Tea Co., Ld.	.. Macneill & Co.	...	456	
Monmoy Tea Estate	... Balmer, Lawrie & Co., Ld.	I.	480	
Monmohinipur Tea Co., Ld....	A. W. Figgs & Co.	I.	335	
Moolan Tea Estate	... ..	...	.....
Moomincherra Tea Estate	... ..	...	.....	200
Moran Tea Co., Ld.	... W. M. & Co.	I.	1,000	
Mornai Tea Estate	... Lyall Marshall & Co.	...	520	
Mothola Co., Ld.	... K. B. & Co.	I.	455	
Motijan Tea Estate	... National Agency Co., Ld.	...	78	
Muddanpore Tea Estate	... ..	...	.....	227
Modojan Tea Estate	... W. M. & Co.	I.	317	
Muraicherra Tea Estate	... B. L. & Co., Ld.	...	.....	300
Murphulani Tea Co.	... P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	I.	232	
Naga Hills Tea Co., Ld.	... Indian Planters Agency Co., Ld.	...	550	
Nagenganj Tea Co., Ld.	... ..	...	.....
Naharkatiya, Ld. (Saw Mill)	I. P. A. Co., Ld.	...	.....
Nahorabi Tea Estate	... O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	880	
Nahorjan Tea Co., Ld.	... G. H. & Co.	I.	800	
Namburnadi Tea Co., Ld.	... S. W. & Co.	I.	773	
		

‡Is a garden of the Prithimpasa Wards Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Namdang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	1,035	
†Narayanpur Tea Estate ...	.....	...	...
National Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. M. Bose	...	500	
Nepaphoo Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.		43	
New Cinnatollah Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	965	
New Darrang Tea Corpora- tion, Ltd.	I. P. A. Co., Ltd.	...	200	
New Samanbagh Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	I.	...	949
New Sylhet Tea Estates, Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	...	1,169
Nilphamari Union Tea Co., Ltd.	Martin & Co.	...	...
Nilpur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I.	155	
*Noahabarie Tea Estates, Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co.	...	657	
Noanuddy Tea Concern ...	Raja of Mymen- singh.	...	350	
Noarbund Tea Co. ...	.....	...	...	399
Nokroy (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	...
§Noonmati Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	...
North-Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	1,478
Noyapara Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	...	835
Oating Tea Estate ...	P. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	233	
Ooterbhag & Indanngger Tea Estate	G. C. Dutt	...	...	896
Orang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	511	
Oriental Tea Co., Ltd. ...	I. P. A. Co., Ltd.	..	125	
Pabbojan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	2,147	
Padoomoni Tea Seeds Syndi- cate	.....	...	56	
		

† Is a division of Luxmi Tea Co., Ltd.

* Noahabarie Tea Estate is now a division of the Jorehat Tea Co., Ltd.

§ Noonmati Tea Estate is included in Ramna Hill Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Palakandi Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Panbari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	260	
Panbarry Tea Estate ...	.....	...	413	
Panchmoi Tea Estate ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	350	
Panikhati Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Parbutpore Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	500
Pathini Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	1,999
Patrakola Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	607	4,417
Phukennagor Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Phukentbarri Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	484	
Purapbarri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. Co. ...	I.	300	
Purbutguri Tea Seed Garden	.....	...	.....
Prithimpassa Wards Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Rajabbarri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	517	
Rajabbarree Tea Estate ...	.....	...	550	
Rajabhettia Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	347	
Rajah Ali Tea Estates, Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	380	
Rajgarh Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	236	
Rajnagar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co. ...	I.	.....	512
Rajmai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	2,309	
Ramani Krishna Tea Estate ...	...	...	.....	132
Ramra Hill Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	112	
Rangollao Tea Estate ...	.....	...	90	
Rani Tea Estate ...	...	...	270	
Romai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	574	

** Is a garden of the Prithimpassa Wards Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Roopabally Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	...	.....	302
Roopacherra Tea Co., Ld. ...	B. D. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	672
Rowriah Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	247	
Rukni Tea Co., Ld. ...	H. M. Girling ...	I.	470	
Rungajaun Tea Co., Ld. ...	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	2,136	
Rungamattee Tea Co., Ld. ...	D. B. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	744
Rungicherra Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ld.	...	.....	350
Rungliting Tea Co. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	...	605	
Rupajuli Tea Co., Ld. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	806	
Rupai Tea Co., Ld. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	I.	1,557	
*Rupshi Tea Estate ...	J. Mackillican & Co.	...	110	
Rutema Tea Co., Ld. ...	McLeod & Co. ...	I.	.....	1,201
Sabajpur (Jhingala) Tea Estate	Cachar Native Joint Stock Co., Ld. (Proprs.)	...	300	
Sadasiva Tea Estate ...	.....	...	30	
Salchapra Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Solonah Tea Co., Ld. ...	M. M. & Co.	I.	4,389	
Sapoi Tea Co., Ld. ...	J. F. & Co., Ld.	I.	864	
Scottish Assam Tea Co., Ld. ...	W. M. & Co., Ld.	I.	1,314	
Scottpore Tea Co., Ld. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	1,400
Seajuli Tea Co., Ld. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	521	
Sephinjuri Bheel Tea Co., Ld.	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....	2,163
Shakomato Tea Co., Ld. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	I.	945	
Sibsagar Tea Co. ...	.....	...	364	
Silonebari Tea Co., Ld. ...	Barry & Co.	I.	1,174	
		

*Formerly known as Lalkura Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Singhijan Tea Estates ...	S. F. & Co., Ltd.	...	246	
Singlo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. A. & Co.	L.	3,659	
Singphoo Tea Estate ...	Buloma Tea Co.	...	69	
Sonabheel (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	603	
Sonal River Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Davenport & Co.	L.	.....	800
Sonapore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Martin & Co.	...	350	
Sonarupa Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co.	L.	.....	546
South Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	412
Sreebari Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....	250
Star Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	120
Sreekona Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Sridharpore Tea Estate ...	A. W. Figgis & Co.	...	.....	450
Srihatta Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. W. Figgis & Co.	...	.....	270
Sukanjuri Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	100	
Sumati Tea Estate ...	L. P. A. & Co., Ltd.	...	120	
Surma Valley Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	L.	.....	1,207
Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.	L.	.....	700
Sylhet Tea & Industry Ltd. ...	Traders Associa- tion.	...	.....	810
Taikong Tea Estate ...	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	L.	454	
Tamulbari Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	320	
Tara Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	1,200	
Tarnapore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	L.	.....	6,554
		

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley
*Teekulpar Tea Estate ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Teen Ali Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	517	
Teloijan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I.	450	
Teliapara Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	1,175
Tengpani Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. A. & Co.	I.	107	
†Tezpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	866	
Thakurbari Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	.....
Thanai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	2,003	
Thengalbaree Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,490	
Madhapur and Thengalbari				
Tilah Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	739
Timon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	" "	...	170	
Tinkong Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	822	
Tingri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,987	
Tirual Tea Co., Ltd. ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	175	
Titabur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	625	
Titadimoro Tea Estate ...	Barry & Co.	I.	307	
Titajuri Tea Estate ...	.....	...	30	
Tongani Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	366	
Tonijan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	221	
Tyroon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	652	
Udalguri Tea Estate ...	P. S. Agency Co., Ltd.	...	185	
Udna Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	.....	375
Union Tea and Trading Co., Ltd.	.....	...	.....	300
Upper Assam Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I & L	4,206	
		

*Incorporated in the Jetinga Valley Tea Co., Ltd.

†Includes Bettybari.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Western Cachar Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	1,119
Western Dooars Tea Syndi- cate, Ltd.	G. W. & Co.	...	200	
Woodlands Tea Estate ...	.....	...	80	
Zaloni Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	563	
			269,302	146,297
	TOTAL ACRES ...	...	415,599	

Indian Tea Association.

SURMA VALLEY BRANCH.

RULES.

1. The Association shall be called the "Surma Valley Branch" of the Indian Tea Association.

2. The objects of the Association are generally to watch over and, as far as possible, to protect the interests of the tea industry of the Surma Valley, also to keep in touch with Government, the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and other Associations on matters connected with the Indian tea industry.

3. The Association shall consist of Companies, Proprietors, or Concerns occupied in the production of tea in the Surma Valley. Such Companies or Concerns shall ordinarily be represented by the nominee of their Calcutta Agents on the District Committees of each district in which they are interested.

4. Private Proprietors or Concerns not having Managing Agents shall be entitled to elect one Member to the Committee of each district in which they own an interest, provided that the gross area amounts to 1,000 acres. Such election to be balloted for among themselves on the basis of one vote for each 100 acres of tea subscribed for the Association. Companies or Concerns wishing to join need not necessarily be members of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

(a) The funds of the Branch shall be provided by an annual subscription of one anna per acre under tea cultivation, by those Companies, or Concerns, who subscribe to the general funds of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and a subscription of two annas per acre by those who do not so subscribe.

(b) If it shall be found that any Manager or Managers or Agents have evaded payment on his or their acreage.

he or they shall be called upon to pay up the arrears for the last three years, and shall not be entitled to vote or benefit by any of the privileges of the Association, until that sum be paid in full.

- 5 (a) The Surma Valley shall be divided into the following nine districts :—

Luskerpur, Balisera, Lungla and Jhuri, Doloi and North of Surma, Chargola and Longai, Luckipur, Hailakandy, Chutla Bheel, Happy Valley North Cachar.

- (b) In each of the above-named districts, a Committee, to be termed a District Committee, shall be formed; the members of such Committee shall be appointed by the Calcutta Agents interested in the District, each Agency House so interested being empowered to appoint one member.

- (c) Members, not having Managing Agents, may ballot for one independent member for each District Committee in whose area they hold an interest in tea as provided for in Rule 3.

- (d) An Honorary Chairman and Honorary Secretary shall be elected annually, as soon as possible, after the 1st July, but not later than the end of that month, by the Members of each District Committee from among their number. These offices may be held by one and the same person.

- (e) In the case of a member of a District Committee, or the General Committee being absent on leave, or permanently leaving the District, his Agents in the former case and his District Committee in the latter case, shall elect his substitute.

- (f) A District Committee may consist of any number of members, not less than three and shall meet at least twice annually, preferably a fortnight previous to each of the two General Committee Meetings.

- (g) Any member of a District Committee, unavoidably absent from a meeting, may give his proxy to any other member of the same District Committee.

- (k) At a District Committee Meeting three members present in person, or two members present in person and one by proxy shall form a quorum.
- (l) When any matter of interest or importance is brought to the notice of the Honorary Chairman of a District Committee he shall instruct the Honorary Secretary to call a meeting of which fourteen days' notice shall ordinarily be given (except in a case of urgency when seven days shall suffice); a report of the Proceedings of such meetings shall be sent to the Secretary to the Branch. District Committee shall take action through the Branch Secretary, who shall have the matter in question brought before the Chairman of the Branch for orders.
- (j) A District Committee may discuss and pass a resolution on, or make suggestions in connection with, any subject affecting local planting interests, either directly or otherwise. Any member may require his District Committee representative to bring up for discussion any subject which may affect his interest. The District Committee may, thereupon, require their representative on the General Committee to bring the matter before that Committee for the necessary action, if any.
- (k) Each member of a District Committee shall be entitled to one vote for every complete 100 acres of tea, which he represents and which has paid the annual subscription to the Branch. The Chairman in case of equal voting to have a casting vote.
- (l) District Committee members shall, when a meeting is impracticable, state their views in writing to the Honorary Secretary, who in conjunction with the Chairman, shall draw up a resolution in accordance with the opinion expressed by the majority, and forward same to the Secretary of the General Committee for approval and action, if any.
- 6 (a) For the conduct of the Association's business the different District Committees shall, as soon as possible, after the 1st July, but not later than the end of that month,

elect the representatives they are entitled to as specified below, who shall form the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch, which Committee shall at their first meeting thereafter, elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman need not necessarily be a member of any District Committee.

Luskerpore ...	...	District shall elect one member.
Balisera ...	...	„ „ „ two members.
Lungla Jhuri Doloi & North of Surma ...	...	„ „ „ three members.
Chargola and Longai ...	...	„ „ „ two members.
Hailakandy ...	...	„ „ „ „ „
Chutla Bheel ...	...	„ „ „ „ „
Luckipore ...	...	„ „ „ „ „
Happy Valley ...	...	„ „ „ one member.
North Cachar ...	...	„ „ „ „ „

or sixteen members in all irrespective of the Chairman.

- (b) In all matters of whatsoever nature that come up before the General Committee, each member shall have one vote only.
- (c) The Chairman or his Deputy in cases of equality of votes, shall have a second or casting vote,
- (d) In cases of a member of the General Committee being absent on leave or more than three months, or permanently leaving the district he shall notify the Branch Secretary of his intention, if possible, at least one month previous to his departure, so that a substitute may be provided for.
- (e) The meetings of the General Committee shall take place at least half-yearly as soon after 1st January and 1st July respectively as possible, subject to one month's notice, but the Chairman or his Deputy may if he thinks fit, call a special meeting of the Committee to consider any matter of urgency or importance, and shall give seven days' notice of such meetings.
- (f) The meeting of the General Committee shall ordinarily be held at Silchar, except that it shall be optional for

the Sylhet members to claim that each alternate meeting be held at some convenient place in Sylhet to be decided upon by them; but notice of such intention must be given to the Secretary at least one month previous to the date of the meeting which they propose should be held in Sylhet.

(g) Any member unable to attend a meeting may give his proxy to another member of the General Committee to act for him.

(h) Any member of the General Committee who is not present in person or by proxy at any three consecutive meetings of that Committee creates a vacancy; and the Secretary of the Branch shall request his District Committee to nominate another representative.

(i) In the event of a Chairman of either the General or District Committee wishing to resign during the term of his office, he shall call a meeting to appoint a substitute, giving, if possible, one month's but not less than seven days' notice of such meeting; and shall continue to act until such appointment is made.

(j) Seven members present in person, or five in person and two by proxy, shall form a quorum at any meeting of the General Committee.

(k) The General Committee shall appoint and control the paid Secretary, whose office shall be an annual one.

7. (a) The Secretary shall ordinarily keep a register of all Proceedings and carry on the clerical work of the Branch, and shall collect the subscription due to the Branch. He shall draw up and submit accounts to the General Committee in each half-year, as soon as possible, after the 1st January, and the 1st July.

A copy of accounts shall be sent to all members one month before the meeting at which they would come up before the General Committee for discussion and sanction; and copies of accounts shall, thereafter, be circulated to all members.

(b) The Secretary shall also circulate to all members a copy of all communications issued under the authority of

the General Committee; and upon receiving particulars a copy of the proceedings of all District Committee meetings; also a copy of the proceedings of all General Committee Meetings.

- (c) The Secretary shall furnish the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, with a copy of all communications emanating from, and Proceedings of General and District Committees.

8. The Secretary, on receiving particulars from the Chairman of the General or District Committees concerning matters of public interest which require the attention of the Branch (should the Chairman consider a meeting inexpedient, shall circulate copies of the particulars to all members of the General Committee, who shall furnish the Secretary within a fortnight with his written opinion, so that in conjunction with the Chairman of the Branch, he may decide by the general opinion what action should be taken.

9. Upon receiving a requisition signed by ten ordinary members of the Surma Valley Branch of the Association stating the reason therefor, the Secretary shall convene an Ordinary General Meeting of members of the Branch at Silehar, or giving one month's notice of such meeting and stating for what reason, and on whose requisition it has been called.

Indian Tea Association.

Surma Valley Branch.

Statement of Account for the year ending 31st December 1923.

RECEIPTS		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
To Balance brought forward from 31st December 1922	...	...	...	...	1,883	5	5
" SUBSCRIPTIONS COLLECTED FOR 1923 :—							
From Cachar Gardens	...	3,416	6	6			
" Sylhet "	...	3,174	11	9			
" Office allowance from Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, for the year 1923 @ Rs. 100 per month	...	1,200	0	0			
GRAND TOTAL	...				11,874	7	8
EXPENDITURE.		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
By Postage Stamps	...	257	10	6			
" Telegrams	...	103	0	0			
" Chairman's bill for stamps, telegrams, etc.	...	65	0	0			
" Secretary's pay	...	3,250	0	0			
" Office expenditure	...	1,200	0	0			
" House allowance to L. T. A. Clerk	...	60	0	0			
" Subscription to Chittagong Chamber of Commerce	...	50	0	0			
" Stationery	...	632	11	0			
" Printing Charges	...	77	6	0			
" Registering Telegraphic Address	...	10	0	0			
" Premium on Fire Insurance Policy	...	12	8	0			
" Travelling allowance to General Committee members	...	2,901	0	0			
" Amount voted for entertainment H. E. the Governor of Assam	...	200	0	0			
" Purchase of 16 copies of a book entitled "Material Advantage of India under the British Crown"	...	51	12	3			
" Freight, carriages, etc., & petty charges	...	42	10	9			
BALANCE—					9,612	10	6
Imperial Bank of India	...	1,720	10	8			
Cash in hand	...	341	2	6			
GRAND TOTAL	...				2,261	13	2
					11,874	7	8

Subscription outstanding to end of 31st December 1923.—Chittagong T. E. Rs. 62-8-4.

W. E. D. CHATTERJEE.

W. E. D. CHATTERJEE.

Surma Valley Branch.
Statement of Accounts for the half-year ending 30th June 1924.

RECEIPTS.	Rs.			Rs.			EXPENDITURE.			Rs.			Rs.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.				Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
To Balance brought forward from 31st December 1923	...	...	...	2,281	13	2	By Postage stamps	...	...	118	10	0	...	...	...
" Arrears subscription for 1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	" Telegrams	...	...	40	3	0	...	...	...
" collected from Chinnore	62	8	0	62	8	0	" Secretary's pay	...	...	1,800	0	0	...	...	...
" SUBSCRIPTIONS COLLECTED for 1924 :-							" Office expenditure	...	...	600	0	0	...	...	...
From Cachar Gardens	3,677	2	0				" House allowance to J. T. A. Clerk	...	...	30	0	0	...	...	...
" Sylhet	4,933	1	3				" Subscription to Chittagong Chamber of Commerce	...	...	50	0	0	...	...	...
" Office allowance from J. T. A., Calcutta, from January to June 1924, @ Rs. 100/- per month	600	0	0	8,610	3	3	" Stationery	...	...	484	8	0	...	...	...
" Sale of old Directory	10	0	0				" Printing charges	...	...	522	3	0	...	...	...
							" Travelling allowance to members of General Committee	...	...	1,828	13	0	...	...	...
							" Registered Telegraphic Address	...	...	15	0	0	...	...	...
							" Subscription to local News Papers	...	...	3	5	0	...	...	...
							" Thacker Spink's Directory	...	...	34	14	0	...	...	...
							" Expenses in connection with the General Meeting held on 11th March 1924	...	...	55	14	6	...	...	...
							" Freight, Carriage of stationery and petty charges	...	...	35	15	0	...	...	...
							BALANCE :-						5,619	5	6
							Imperial Bank of India	...	...	5,238	2	11	...	...	...
							Cash in hand	...	...	687	0	0	5,925	2	11
GRAND TOTAL	...	...	...	11,544	8	5	GRAND TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	11,544	8	5

Subscription outstanding to end of 30th June 1924 :- Estimated T. F. :- Rs. 30-18-0.

BINAKANDI T. K.
The 17th July 1924.

W. E. D. COOPER,
Secretary.

SURMA VALLEY BRANCH.

Indian Tea Association.

List of members of the General Committee for the year 1924-25.

Members.

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C.,			<i>Chairman.</i>
MR. J. C. DAWSON, M.L.C.,	<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	}	<i>Chargola-Longai.</i>
" W. R. P. GUNNERY ...	...	
" W. STEWART ...	...	}	<i>Luckipur.</i>
" C. E. EWING ...	...	
" A. B. BEDDOW ...	...	}	<i>Happy Valley.</i>
" J. MACKNIGHT ...	...	
" E. C. T. DODD ...	...	}	<i>Chutla Bheel.</i>
" E. G. PETERS ...	...	
" A. MCCREATH ...	...	}	<i>Hailakandi.</i>
" D. PATERSON ...	...	
" C. A. WILLIAMS ...	...	}	<i>Lungla-Juri-Doloi & North of Surma.</i>
" J. REID ...	...	
" H. L. BIRLEY ...	...	}	<i>Balizers.</i>
" R. G. MATHEWSON ...	...	
" H. F. DEMPSTER ...	...	}	<i>Luskerpore.</i>
" C. S. CRESSWELL ...	...	
MR. W. E. D. COOPER,			<i>Secretary.</i>

*List of Members of the District Committees elected for
the year 1924-25.*

Luckipur District Committee.

Name of members.	Address.	Representative of Messrs.
Mr. W. Stewart, (<i>Chairman</i> <i>& Hon. Secy.</i>)	Labac	... Macneill & Co.
„ A. R. Harvey	... Tilka Tea Co.	... Octavins Steel & Co., <i>Id.</i>
„ C. E. Ewing	... Chingoor	... Barlow & Co.

Happy Valley District Committee.

Mr. A. B. Beddow, (<i>Chair-</i> <i>man & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Urrunabund	... Balmer, Lawrie & Co.
„ R. H. Talbot	... Cossipore	... Macneill & Co.
„ J. S. Mercer	... Arcuttipore	... J. Mackillican & Co.
„ J. M. Taylor	... Doyapore	... Walker, Goward & Co.
„ F. Ross Jones	... Chandighat	... Duncan Brothers & Co., <i>Id.</i>
„ E. W. Hughes	... Dooloogram	... McLeod & Co.
„ G. S. Gall	... Martycherra	... Barry & Co.
„ C. R. Fox	... Larsingah	... Begg, Dunlop & Co., <i>Id.</i>
„ C. J. Shorey	... Coombergam	... Octavins Steel & Co., <i>Id.</i>

Chutla Bheel District Committee.

Mr. E. C. T. Dodd, (<i>Chair-</i> <i>man & Hon. Secy.</i>)	West-Jalinga	... Duncan Brothers & Co.
„ J. D. Jenkins	... Derby	... Octavins Steel & Co., <i>Id.</i>
„ H. C. Lester	... Dwarbund	... Balmer, Lawrie & Co.
„ E. G. Peters	... Ruttonpore	... Jardine, Skinner & Co.
„ J. D. Jowitt	... Monierkhal	... Davenport & Co.
„ W. B. R. McWha	... Bhubandhur	... Macneill & Co.
„ J. Fraser	... Irongmara	Tea Geo. Henderson & Co. <i>Co.</i>
„ J. N. Talbot	... Chinceorie	... Villiers, <i>Id.</i>
The Manager	... Kutlal	... McLeod & Co.
„ „	... Boro-Jalingah	... James Finlay & Co., <i>Id.</i>

Hailakandi District Committee.

Name of members.	Address.	Representative of Messrs.
Mr. A. McCreath, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Dholai	... <i>Duncan Brothers & Co.</i>
" D. Paterson	... Aenakhai	... <i>Jardine, Skinner & Co.</i>
" F. R. Johnson	... Kalacherra	... <i>Octavius Steel & Co.,</i> <i>Ld.</i>
" J. H. Jewell	... Roopacherra	... <i>Begg, Dunlop & Co.,</i> <i>Ld.</i>
" R. H. Hossack	... Koyah	... <i>Macneill & Co.</i>
" J. A. Elliot	... Manipore	... <i>Gillanders, Arbuthnot</i> <i>& Co.</i>
" B. Gupta	... Vernerpore	... <i>The Secretary, Cachar</i> <i>Native Joint Stock</i> <i>Co., Ld.</i>

North Cachar District Committee.

Mr. J. MacKnight, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Kurkorie	... <i>Duncan Brothers & Co.</i> <i>Ld.</i>
" A. G. Furrell	... Hatticherra	... <i>Macneill & Co.</i>
" D. E. Gomme	... Ballacherra	... <i>Jardine, Skinner & Co.</i>
" E. B. Baker	... Dulcherra	... <i>James Finlay & Co.,</i> <i>Ld.</i>
" M. T. Beatts	... Craigpark	... <i>Barry & Co.</i>
" R. B. Lungley	... Kallinecherra	... <i>Octavius Steel & Co.,</i> <i>Ld.</i>
" J. M. Barry	... Jetinga Valley...	... <i>Begg, Dunlop & Co.,</i> <i>Ld.</i>

Chargola-Longai District Committee.

Mr. J. C. Dawson, M.L.C., (<i>Chairman.</i>)	Isa Bheel	... <i>Octavius Steel & Co.</i> <i>Ld.</i>
" B. J. Lamb (<i>Hon. Secy.</i>)	Blubrightat	... <i>Private gardens.</i>
" P. S. Doubell	... Sephinjuri	... <i>Williamson, Magor &</i> <i>Co.</i>
" W. R. P. Gunnery	... Chargola	... <i>James Finlay & Co.,</i> <i>Ld.</i>
" T. E. Holbrook	... Dullabcherra	... <i>McLeod & Co.</i>

Lungla-Juri-Doloi and North of Surma District Committee.

Name of members.	Address.	Representative of Messrs.
Mr. J. Reid, (<i>Chairman & Hony. Secretary.</i>)	Allynugger	... <i>Duncan Brothers & Co. Ld.</i>
„ S. G. MacBey	... Etah	... <i>Octavius Steel & Co. Ld.</i>
„ A. B. Hyslop	... New Samanbagh	<i>Shaw, Wallace & Co.</i>
„ H. L. Birley	... Holicherra	... <i>James Finlay & Co. Ld.</i>
„ D. Smith	... Sonarupa	... <i>Macneill & Co.</i>
„ P. J. Purves	... Ghazipore	... <i>Andrew Yule & Co.</i>
„ C. A. Williams	... Ruthna	... <i>McLeod & Co.</i>
The Manager	... Phooltullah	... <i>Williamson, Magor & Co.</i>
Mr. P. Woodland	... Lackatoorah	... <i>J. Mackillican & Co.</i>
The Manager	... Malnicherra	... <i>Barry & Co.</i>
„ „	... Loobacherra	... <i>Octavius Steel & Co. Ld.</i>

Balisera District Committee.

Mr. R. G. Mathewson, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Rajghat	... <i>James Finlay & Co. Ld.</i>
„ A. G. Morris	... Mazdehee	... <i>Planters' Stores and Agency Co., Ld.</i>
„ H. F. Dempster	... Satgaon	... <i>Octavius Steel & Co. Ld.</i>

Luskerpore District Committee.

Mr. C. S. Cresswell, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Teliapara	... <i>Duncan Brothers & Co. Ld.</i>
„ J. W. Smart	... Chandpore	... <i>Barry & Co.</i>
„ C. N. W. Grimshaw	... Surma	... <i>McLeod & Co.</i>
„ J. E. Aird	... Deundi	... <i>Planters' Stores and Agency Co., Ld.</i>
„ S. Parrot	... Luskerpore	... <i>Shaw, Wallace & Co. Ld.</i>
„ D. Tulloch	... Rasidpur	... <i>James Finlay & Co.</i>

Representatives of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, on the Assam Labour Board.

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C.

„ A. McCREATH.

„ J. C. DAWSON, M.L.C.

The Indian Tea Cess Committee.

MR. J. REID.

„ E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C.

The Assam Legislative Council.

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C.

„ J. C. DAWSON, M.L.C.

*List of Tea Proprietors, Members of the Surma Valley Branch,
Indian Tea Association, on the 30th June 1924.*

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultiva- tion.
		Acres.
Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd.	<i>The Amalgamated Tea Estates Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Morapore	324½
	<i>The Anglo-American Direct Tea Trading Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Boro-falingah	63½
	<i>The Consolidated Tea & Lands Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Lulleecherra ... 1,648½	
	Jafflong ... 1,003	
	Lallakhah ... 320	
	Goombira ... 1,328½	
	Baitakhah ... 433½	
	Sagurnah ... 620½	
	Holicherra ... 538	
	Deanston ... 2,452½	
	Rajghat ... 2,384½	
	Balisera ... 1,493	
	Phulcherra ... 1,023½	
	Amrail ... 1,974	
	Jagcherra ... 909	
		16,128½
	<i>The Chargola Tea Association, Ltd. :—</i>	
	Chargola ... 1,524½	
	Hingajea ... 832½	
	Singlacherra ... 952	
	Maguracherra ... 671½	
		3,980½
	<i>The Baraooora (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Baraooora ... 1,430	
	Rasidpore ... 1,400	
	Daragaon ... 1,236½	
		4,066½
	Carried over ...	25,135½

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
	Brought forward ...	Aeres. 25,135 $\frac{3}{4}$
	<i>The Dhamai Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Dhamai ... 1,074	
	Kapnapahar ... 634	1,708
	<i>The Dulcherra Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Dulcherra ...	570
	<i>The Nogapara Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Nayapara ...	885
Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co. :—	<i>Bengal United Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Aenakhall ... 1,441	
	Lallamookh ... 758	
	Lallacherra ... 783	
	Singalla ... 745	
	Ruttonpore ... 820	4,547
	<i>Ballacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	980
	<i>Cachar & Dooars Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Silcoorie ... 1,457	
	Poloi ... 636	
	Sultanicherra ... 694	2,787
	<i>Central Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Burnie Braes ... 915	
	Serispore ... 545	1,460
	<i>Chandypore Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	790
	<i>Kallinugger & Khoreel Tea Co. Ltd.</i>	586
	Carried over ...	39,348 $\frac{3}{4}$

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
	Brought forward ...	Acres. 39,348½
Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co.	<i>Luskeipore Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,015
	<i>New Samanbagh Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	949
	<i>Rajnagar Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	848½
	<i>Surma Valley Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Silloah Divn. ... 620	
	Rajkie „ ... 587	1,207
	<i>Udna Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	375
Messrs. Macneill & Co.	<i>Turrapore Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Labac Divn. }	
	Dewan „ }	
	Burtoll „ }	6,054
	<i>Scottpore Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Scottpore }	
	Pollarbund }	1,411
	Narainpore }	
	<i>Doodputlee Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Hatticherra }	
	Doodputlee }	1,446
	<i>Cossipore Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	659
	<i>Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,119
	<i>Majagram Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Majagram Divn. ... 473	
	Subong „ ... 807	1,280
	<i>Koyah Tea Estate</i> ...	709
	<i>Kalline Tea Estate</i> ...	1,354
	<i>Bhubanpukur Tea Estate</i> ...	664
	<i>Dilkhoosh Tea Estate</i> ...	479
	<i>Sonarupur Tea Estate</i> ...	546
	Carried over ...	59,464½

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
		Acres.
	Brought forward ...	59,464½
Messrs. Barry & Co....	<i>Cheerie Valley Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	588
	<i>Craigpark Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	408
	<i>Chandpore Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Chandpore Divn. ... 1,134	
	Parkul „ ... 405	
		1,539
	<i>Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	700
Messrs. Duncan Brothers & Co. ...	<i>Doloo Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,449
	<i>Jalinguk Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	750
	<i>North Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Kurkorie Divn. ... 914	
	Bierampore „ ... 530	
		1,444
	<i>Chandighat Tea Estate</i> ...	744
	<i>Amo Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Amo Divn. ... 887	
	Nalua „ ... 437	
		1,324
	<i>Teliapara Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Teliapara Divn. ... 771	
	Satchuri „ ... 402	
		1,173
	<i>Allynugger Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Allynugger Divn. ... 1,517	
	Chatlapore „ ... 1,040	
		2,557
	<i>Patrokola Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Patrokola Divn. ... 1,057	
	Kurmah „ ... 932	
	Madabpore „ ... 767	
	Champarai „ ... 909	
	Rampore and Burkhola ... 850	
		4,515
	Carried over ...	76,655½

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
	Brought forward ...	Acres. 76,655½
Messrs. Duncan Brothers & Co.— <i>contd.</i>	<i>Indian Tea Co. of Cachar Ltd. :—</i>	
	Rosekandy ...	1,297
	<i>Kukicherra Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Kukicherra Divn. ... 762	
	Dholai „ ... 970	
		1,732
	<i>New Kunchunpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	547½
	<i>Dauracherra Tea Estate ...</i>	576
	<i>Cleredon Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	320
	<i>Borokai Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	785
Messrs. Balmer, Lawrie & Co.	<i>British Indian Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Dwarbund Divn. ... 427½	
	Urrunabund „ ... 519	
		946½
Messrs. Begg Dunlop & Co., Ltd.	<i>Entlacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	260
	<i>Jetinga Valley Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Jetinga Divn. ... 495½	
	Koomber & Teckulpar 1,259	
	Larsingah ... 663	
		2,417½
	<i>Roopacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	672
	<i>South Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	
	Jafferbund ...	498½
Messrs. Walker, Go-ward & Co.	<i>Doyanpore Tea Estate ...</i>	423
	Carried over ...	87,180

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
	Brought forward ...	Acres. 87,130
Messrs. McLeod & Co.	<i>Imperial Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	
	Kuttal Divn. ... 1,000	
	Rema „ ... 701	
	Ruthna „ ... 500	
	Surma „ ... 1,143	
		3,344
	<i>Doloi Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	600
	<i>Dooloogram Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	
	Dooloogram Divn. ... 482	
	Pathieherra „ ... 700	
		1,182
	<i>East Indian & Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Dullabcherra ... 1,386	
	Mookhamcherra ... 793	
		2,179
Messrs. Williamson Magor & Co.	<i>New Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Phooltullah „ ...	1,168
	<i>Septhinjuri Bheel Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Septhinjuri Divn. ... 1,554½	
	Tilbhum „ ... 609	
		2,163½
Messrs. Gillanders, Ar- buthnot & Co.	<i>Manipore Tea Estate</i> ...	528
Messrs. Villiers, Ltd.	<i>Chincoorie Tea Estate</i> ...	500
Messrs. J. Mackillican & Co.	<i>Arcuttipore Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	280
	<i>Lackatoorah Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,223
	Carried over ...	100,297½

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
Messrs. Octavious Steel & Co., Ltd.	Brought forward ...	Acres. 100,297 $\frac{3}{4}$
	<i>Alyne-Pathemara Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Alyne Divn. ... 350	
	Pathemara „ ... 645	
		995
	<i>Budderpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	500
	<i>Longai Valley Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Chandkhira Divn. ... 839 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Longai & } „ ... 1,092	
	Adam Tila } „ ...	
		1,931 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<i>Chundeecherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	545
	<i>Derby Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	1,300
	<i>Eastern Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	1,103
	<i>Endogram Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	678
	<i>Hattikhira Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Hattikhira } ...	2,409
	Solgoi }	
	<i>Kaliti Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	400
	<i>Kalacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	463
	<i>Loobacherra ...</i>	466
	<i>Kallinecherra ...</i>	700
	<i>Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Lungla Divn. ... 700	
	Shumshernugger „ ... 1,604	
	Kannyhatti „ ... 1,265	
	Etah & Burrumsal ... 1,484	
		5,053
	<i>Pathini Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Pathini } ...	1,982
	Champabarie }	
	Piplagool }	
	<i>Sathgao Tea Estate ...</i>	917
	<i>Tilkah Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	759
	<i>Isa Bheel Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	905
	Carried over ...	121,404

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
	Brought forward ...	Acres. 121,404
Gagan Chandra Dutt.	<i>Cachar Native Joint Stock Co., Ld. :—</i> Vernerpore Divn. ... 700 Sabazpore „ ... 280	980
Planters' Stores & Agency Co., Ld.	<i>Deundi Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Lalchand Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Mazdehee Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Roopabally Tea Estate</i> ...	1,345 826 660 175
Messrs. Martin & Co.	<i>Bidyanagar Tea Estate</i> ...	850
Messrs. Geo. Henderson & Co.	<i>Iringmara Tea Co., Ld. :—</i> Bagh 'O' Bahar ...	374
Messrs. Davenport & Co.	<i>Sonai River Tea Co., Ld. :—</i> Monierkhal ...	800
Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co.	<i>Ghazipore Tea Estate</i> ...	570
Messrs. Barlow & Co.	<i>Brae & Chingoor Tea Estates Ld....</i>	797
Private Gardens.	<i>Rukni Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Parbulpore Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Bhubrighat Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Gobindpur Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Eraligool & Binodini T. E.</i> ...	450 400 656 675 742
Messrs. Crozier's Agency, Ld., Silchar.	<i>Amaranagar Tea Estate</i> ...	82½
	GRAND TOTAL ...	131,786½

